

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Jack the lad
Nicholas Wapshot
introduces the real Jack
Nicholson (below)



In sickness
Nicholas Timmins
reports on the cloud
hanging over the health
service

Up for the Cup
Preview of the European
cup football matches
Gold canter
Trevor Fishlock in
Calgary where the gold
rush has slowed to a
canter

Freedom offer to Mandela

Mr Nelson Mandela, the ANC leader serving a life sentence in South Africa, has been offered his freedom if he agrees to live in Transkei, according to family friends. His wife is expected to put the offer when she visits him this week in Pollsmoor Prison near Cape Town. **Page 5**

Ship inquiry

A French warship said help was not needed as it attended a sinking freighter in the English Channel, but 16 seamen drowned, an inquiry was said. **Page 3**

Mondale test

Mr Walter Mondale, humiliated by Senator Gerry Hart in New Hampshire and Maine, today faces a third test in the Vermont primary. **Page 6**

'Thin Man' dies

William Powell, the film star of the 1930s and 1940s, who played the wise-cracking detective in the *Thin Man* series, has died in California, aged 91. **Obituary, page 16**

SDP rethink

The Social Democrats may change their minds for choosing by-election candidates to make it easier for "star" politicians to stand. **Page 2**

Perfect launch

The European space rocket Ariane made a perfect launch to put the world's biggest telecommunications satellite into orbit. **Page 8**

Gulf bids

Trading in Gulf Oil's stock was suspended in New York as the board met to consider possible bids worth as much as £10,000m. **Page 32**

Sales fall

Retail sales dropped by 3 per cent in January, giving shops their worst month since last summer. **Page 17**

Boats collide

Dhaka (AP) - Fifty people were feared dead in a collision between a cargo boat and a passenger launch carrying more than 300 people at Naxola near Keshoreganj, about 125 miles east of Dhaka.

Toshack goes

John Toshack, the Swansea City manager, has left the club for the second time this season. He was dismissed yesterday after refusing to resign. **Page 26**

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Letters: On smallholdings, from Mr J. T. Kelleit, and Mr Ian Coutts; deference, from Canon P. B. Hinchliff; Open University, from Professor C. Harrie; Leading articles: Divorce; Housing Bill; Britain's space programme
Features, pages 10, 12, 14
President Reagan writes on the future of NATO, wheels within wheels in London's dockland; Roger Scruton questions the intellectual's self-prescribed right to rule; Spectrum: Neil Kinnock, climbing the ladder; Fashion: Suzy Menkes tries men's sweaters for size; Computer: Horizons, 22-26; Satellite TV: has the BBC lost its way?
Obituary, page 16
Mr William Powell, Rinty Monaghan, Mr John Collis

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56,000 miners to strike over closure of pits

● Yorkshire's 56,000 miners have been called out on strike from Monday to protest at the closure of two pits near Barnsley and Rotherham
● A manager was injured by a stone thrown from a picket line at Yorkshire Main Colliery during an attempt to relieve a maintenance crew

● Mr Ian MacGregor, the coal board chairman, will meet the National Union of Mineworkers' executive today to appeal for an end to their overtime ban
● A select committee has criticized the board and Department of Energy for their reaction to a growth in claims for subsidence damage to buildings, page 2

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

About 29,000 miners were idle yesterday mainly in Yorkshire, after union leaders called an all-out strike from Monday to protest at pit closures. The dispute could spread to other coalfields.

At the centre of a series of walkouts and lay-offs was a dispute at Yorkshire Main Colliery, near Doncaster, where stones were thrown at a management team trying to relieve a maintenance crew which had been down the pit for several hours. After the pickets refused to lift their blockade, the National Coal Board said it had abandoned the pit.

The mine, where 1,400 men work, is prone to spontaneous combustion and could flood quickly unless maintenance crews are allowed back to operate underground fans. The NCB said last night that the pit's future was in serious danger, as were the miners' jobs.

The worsening of industrial relations came on the eve of today's meeting between the unions and Mr Ian MacGregor, coal board chairman, when the board is expected to call for further reductions in capacity leading to more pit closures.

Afterwards Mr MacGregor is to meet the National Union of Mineworkers' executive when he will call for an end to their four-month overtime ban, which he said yesterday was "seriously jeopardizing" the industry's future.

The coal board said Yorkshire Main's deputy engineer was hit in the face yesterday morning by a stone thrown from the picket line. He needed three stitches.

Mr MacGregor, who was

attending a Coal Industry Society lunch in London, said outbreaks of violence in the industry were "rather sad because they indicate there are problems within the union that are not being dealt with by the people who run the union."

He insisted that the 5.2 per cent pay offer would not be increased and suggested that the NUM should ballot members on the offer, there was serious damage being done to the industry and miners had lost almost £70m in wages from the ban he said.

Mr MacGregor intends to threaten to withdraw backdating of the 5.2 per cent offer to November in the hope of persuading moderates on the executive to push for an early ballot, but there are few indications that this strategy will succeed.

Lancashire area union officials will press for a tightening up of increase of the action because of the prospect of the closure of two pits in the area. Yorkshire miners will argue that their strike on Monday should be made official when the executive meets in Sheffield on Thursday.

The Yorkshire area council decided to call out all 56,000 miners over the closure in April of Cortonwood Colliery, near Rotherham and Bulcliffe Wood pit, near Barnsley. Mr Jack Taylor, area president, said they would call for other coalfields to join the strike and appeal to other unions for support.

"We intend to stop them butchering our industry and our jobs. Cortonwood is being closed on economic grounds, but it has the best coal in south

Yorkshire and has at least five years' life left. "We have always said that if they close a Yorkshire pit on economic grounds, we will take action," Mr Taylor said.

About 20,000 miners were

idle in Yorkshire yesterday with 9,000 on strike, 1,000 laid off because of the closures, 4,000 laid off because of the strike and 6,500 not able to work because of the national overtime ban's effects.

Nationally, a further 9,000 miners were unable to work as essential maintenance work which could not be done over the weekend, was carried out. Mr MacGregor said that the ban was having little effect on coal stocks at power stations but was persuading other customers to look abroad for supplies.

He said that the industry would need a deficit grant from the Government of £500m at the end of this month and could not afford an increased offer.

Today's meeting of the Joint Policy Advisory Committee is being held in the hope of finding sufficient agreement between the three unions and the board to allow a joint approach to the Government.

Mr MacGregor is expected to say that a reduction in capacity of about four million tonnes would have to be pushed through in the next year.

It is thought unlikely that Mr MacGregor will threaten to cancel backdating of the offer today, but there is little doubt that his message will be gloomy.

Mr Scargill will maintain that further contraction of the industry proves his case that the Government must invest in coal.

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Testing the EEC air: Mrs Thatcher meeting President Mitterrand at RAF Benson, Oxfordshire, yesterday

US attacks Iraqi use of chemical weapons

From Mohsin Ali Washington

The United States yesterday accused Iraq of using chemical weapons in its war with Iran and condemned resort to them as being without justification.

In a prepared statement the State Department said: "The US has concluded that the available evidence indicates that Iraq has used lethal chemical weapons. The US strongly condemns the prohibited use of chemical weapons wherever it occurs. There can be no justification for their use by any country."

The statement emphasized that the US had been working for many years with other nations to establish a treaty banning production and stockpiling of lethal chemical weapons in order to strengthen the present international prohibition of their use.

The use of chemical weapons in recent conflicts, including the Iran-Iraq war, only adds to the urgency of this undertaking, the statement said.

It added: "While condemning Iraq's resort to chemical weapons, the US also calls on the Government of Iraq to accept the good offices offered by a number of countries and international organizations to put an end to the bloodshed."

The State Department went on to criticize the present Iranian regime's "inconsistent refusal to deviate from its avowed objective of eliminating the legitimate Government of neighbouring Iraq". Such an aim was inconsistent with the accepted norms of behaviour among nations, it said.

Test on body, page 6
Science report, page 16

Thatcher show will be kept on the road, says Biffin

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Mr John Biffin, leader of the Commons, said last night that ministers would have to be on their guard against political accidents which could undermine the Government.

Against a background of growing unease on the Conservative benches and a feeling that the Government was losing its sense of direction, Mr Biffin told *The Times*: "I am quite certain that the Thatcher show can be kept firmly on the road."

Whitehall sources yesterday reacted with characteristic uneasiness to the weekend criticism of Mr Edward du Cann, chairman of the Conservative backbench 1922 Committee.

One central source reported that ministers were relaxed, that they were not taking Mr du Cann's interview too seriously, and that yesterday's newspaper headlines were being exaggerated and that yesterday's newspaper headlines were being exaggerated.

The existence of a large majority is thought, I think wrongly, to give rise to a sense of over-confidence.

"In order to combat that I think you have to have a special vigilance as far as far as side issues are concerned, which could turn into matters of quite sharp political embarrassment."

"No one can predict where these will occur, and often they are simply unavoidable, in which case the requirement is a keen sense of damage limitation."

As for his own backbenchers, Mr Biffin said: "I would have thought that for many of them, this will be the first time that they have come into a situation of some shock and shell."

Continued on back page, col 5

Mitterrand leaves Chequers in silence

By Henry Stanhope Diplomatic Correspondent

The latest French proposals to pull back the EEC from the brink of bankruptcy were placed before Mrs Margaret Thatcher by President Mitterrand of France over a working lunch at Chequers yesterday.

But there was no sign of a deal last night as the President hurried home to Paris, with the crucial make-or-break Brussels summit less than two weeks off.

He gave nothing away as he left - nor did the officials on either side who were even more than usually impenetrable. "We must maintain absolute confidence," one said.

Before the President and the Prime Minister was a package of compromises, parcelled by the French Government after a series of bilateral consultations with other members of the Ten since France took over the presidency of the European Council for six months at the turn of the year.

Britain is refusing even to consider a plan to raise more funds for the impoverished Community, until two of its own demands have been met.

One of these is for tight controls over agricultural spending and the other is for a so-called safety net which would limit the annual contributions of any one country.

President Mitterrand was reportedly bringing to Chequers a proposal which would go some way towards pegging the British contribution at between 17 and 20 per cent of the Community budget. But this was thought unlikely to satisfy Mrs Thatcher.

Pilot on murder charge over body in lake

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Mr Peter Hogg, an airline pilot aged 56, was charged last night with the murder of his wife Margaret, after the discovery of a body in a lake in Cumbria last week.

Mrs Hogg was aged 37 when she vanished in 1976. She was a former air hostess who opened a restaurant with the help of her husband near their home in Cranleigh, Surrey. They had two sons, now aged 18 and 14.

Inquiries into Mrs Hogg's disappearance were revived after a body, reportedly wrapped in carpet and weighted with a concrete kerbstone, was

found by police searching West Water, the deepest lake in England, for a missing French student.

Mr Hogg, who works for Air Europe, on Boeing 707 charter flights from Cranleigh, to European resorts, is to appear before magistrates at Guildford today. The charge alleges that he killed his wife between January 1 and February 29, 1976.

Mr Hogg flew for Court Line which collapsed in 1974. At the time he was on a stopover in Canada with one of the company's jets.

Lebanese Muslims, claimed that Mr Gemayel had surrendered to the Israelis when he gave his approval. Now, with Syria's Druze and Shia Muslim Lebanese allies threatening the President's very palace, Lebanon has thrown out the same agreement and the Israeli believe Mr Gemayel has surrendered to the Syrians by tearing it up.

The immediate future will almost certainly see a reconvened Geneva reconciliation conference that will endorse the end of Lebanon's relations with Israel and offer, in however muted a form, some kind of security guarantees in southern Lebanon. There is unlikely to be any forthright promise from Syria that it will withdraw its own Army from Lebanon.

In the longer term - though perhaps it is only a matter of a few months away - Israel and Syria may come into open war in Lebanon while the minority Christians who support the Phalange, Israel's erstwhile allies, will feel ever more alienated from their own country.

The wheel has now moved full circle. When Israeli troops still occupied much of the territory round Beirut last year, Lebanon signed its troop withdrawal accord with Israel.

Israeli anger as Gemayel tears up treaty

From Robert Fisk Beirut

Israel's last hopes of any tangible benefits from its 1982 invasion of Lebanon were finally crushed yesterday when President Amin Gemayel tore up his country's unofficial peace treaty with Tel Aviv.

His statement issued officially after an extraordinary meeting of the virtually defunct Lebanese Cabinet, said that the unratified May 17th military withdrawal agreement with Israel would henceforth be considered "null and void", an announcement that immediately incurred the bitter condemnation of the Israelis themselves.

Mr Gemayel's decision, which will probably be consecrated at a second Lebanese reconciliation conference in Geneva as early as next week, was widely expected after his visit to President Assad of Syria last Wednesday.

But the Israelis, whose jets staged two separate air raids against Druze-held mountain towns outside Beirut during the day, bitterly denounced the abrogation of the treaty and



President Gemayel: bowed to Syrian demands

accused Syria of using violence to bring Lebanon to its knees.

In Damascus, an exuberant President Assad telephoned President Gemayel to congratulate him on what he described as "a victory for the Lebanese and Syrian people". Syria, Mr Assad said, had "deep brotherly ties" with Lebanon and would always stand by the country's sovereignty and unity.

But within the Lebanese Christian Maronite community

last night there appeared to be serious divisions, with the political leadership accepting Mr Gemayel's decision while the military leadership angrily condemned it and rejected any Syrian-sponsored initiatives in Lebanon. The latter may even include a Syrian-arranged ceasefire that came into effect in Beirut yesterday.

The Israelis invaded Lebanon ostensibly to fight Palestinian guerrillas in the south of the country, but they are now locked into an apparently hopeless guerrilla war in southern Lebanon, not against Palestinians but against hostile Lebanese Shia Muslim guerrillas.

President Gemayel promised yesterday that his Government would "ensure sovereignty, security and stability in southern Lebanon, prevent infiltration across the southern border, and bring about the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all Lebanese territory."

Israel's response was to conclude that Lebanon was incapable of fulfilling her international obligations and of preventing south Lebanon once

again being turned into a terrorist base. Israel, an official statement said in Jerusalem, would "determine the best way to ensure its security."

Many Lebanese Christians now fear that Israel will partition Lebanon and settle down to a permanent occupation of the south of the country, though government officials here hint that the Israelis may withdraw soon from the Awali river, abandon their control of Sidon, and form a new front line along the southern bank of the Zahrani river.

Unless the Israelis leave Lebanon altogether, however, the Syrians will undoubtedly encourage the Shia Muslims of the south to go on fighting their occupiers, thus turning Lebanon into even more of a nightmarish scene for the Army that invaded it 20 months ago.

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سازمان اطلاعات

Minister seeks £15m cut in health service transport costs

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Health authorities are being asked to save £15m a year from the costs of providing NHS transport other than ambulances.

In addition, ministers are considering ending NHS staff loans to buy cars, and replacing them with lower interest loans negotiated with the leasing subsidiaries of leading British car manufacturers. That would release £20m for patient services.

Ministers are also to consider providing small cars on the NHS for staff who travel large distances, instead of paying them expenses. That should save a minimum of another £15m over three years.

The moves were announced yesterday by Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, with the publication of a Rayner scrutiny on Health authorities' use of transport.

The study which covered all forms of transport from stores and laundry delivery vehicles to buses, vans, taxis and staff use of cars, found that about 1,500 of the NHS's 6,000 vehicles were not needed.

Large expensive vehicles

Union poll candidate denies defeat claim

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

A leading contender in the election for the general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union last night denied left-wing claims that he was facing defeat by 100,000 votes.

Mr George Wright, the unions Welsh regional secretary, who has the backing of the right, said that the claims were wild rubbish.

"I know what is happening on the ground and we are winning. I think there is more than a hint of desperation in these claims."

The voting projection was made by supporters of Mr Ron Todd, the union's national organizer, who is the other leading candidate in the election to find a successor to Mr Moss Evans. They said that they had based their prediction on an analysis of branches which were known to have nominated the two men.

But Mr Wright said last night that he expected to have about 600 nominations rather than

Strike to go on at Dimpleby paper group

The nine journalists on strike at Mr David Dimpleby's newspaper group yesterday affirmed their decision to stay out, despite a decision by the House of Lords last week stopping their union's executive from backing them.

Miss Joanna Davies, mother (chairman) of the chapel (office branch) of the National Union of Journalists, said yesterday: "The feeling of the chapel is that nothing has been changed by the House of Lords decision."

The executive of the union voted last Friday against a move to make the dispute at the Richmond and Twickenham Times series official and to risk the possibility of the union's funds being sequestered, as happened in the case of the National Graphical Association.

Wages councils split both employers and unions

By Rupert Morris

A Nottingham corner shop recently employing a woman who was prepared to work a certain number of hours a week for a modest wage. The wage was below the statutory minimum set by the industry's wages council, and the wages inspector told the employer he would have to pay the legal minimum.

The employer decided he could not afford it, and the woman lost her job.

Chambers of commerce throughout Britain tell similar stories supporting their argument that wages councils, most of them formed many years ago, operate in extremely low-wage industries, are now reducing job opportunities.

That view, supported by self-employed groups and other small businesses, appears to be finding increasing favour with the Government.

Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, has no love for wages councils. Twice last year he was snubbed by them, first with a 6 per cent settlement for 120,000 snack bar workers, then with a 7.3 per cent award for 550,000 hotel and restaurant staff. He is in the face of Government efforts to keep pay rises to 3 per cent.

He said that such settlements would price people out of jobs.

The Labour Party and TUC, on the other hand, both believe wages councils are doing a

BL decline could cost 100,000 jobs

By Craig Selton

A further 100,000 jobs could be lost in the West Midlands if BL went into terminal decline, but 4,000 new jobs could be created by Austin Rover alone if the right policies are pursued, report on the car component industry suggests.

The report, to be published tomorrow, will be presented to the economic Development Committee of West Midlands County Council. It says that changing technology, demand fluctuations and sacrifices by BL's workforce in recent years, have created an opportunity for it not only to survive, but to increase its share of the market.

The report, which highlights recent changes and future prospects for the West Midlands automobile components industry, has been prepared by the Science Policy Research Unit at Sussex University.

It says BL must increase its market share by new funding for the development of a new engine and transmission and quotes Mr Jack Adams, trade union convenor at Longbridge, as saying that unless that happens, "all we will be left with is robots assembling imported kits and components."

It also gives a warning that for every additional one per cent of parts bought abroad by Austin Rover, the West Midlands will lose 1,400 jobs.

Mr Geoffrey Edge, chairman of the committee, said: "If present policies and trends continue, 71,000 jobs will be lost in the West Midlands as a result of demise of Austin Rover."

"If Jaguar, and Land-Rover are included, the potential job loss is over 100,000. If policies are changed and the opportunity seized, the Austin Rover group alone could create 4,000 jobs."

The report says that BL's difficulties, and those of the component industry are not caused by the depression as the demand for vehicles in Britain dropped one million last year for the first time since 1972.

The job loss was simply the result of the restructuring of multinational companies for which the West Midlands was once the heartland.



Whitehall brief

When civil servants take business posts

By Peter Hennessy

The battle lines on the issue of senior civil servants taking business appointments have been drawn less than a week after the all-party Commons committee on the Treasury and Civil Service opened its hearings.

The number of would-be businessmen leaving the top three Whitehall grades - which includes about 700 permanent, deputy and under-secretaries - has almost doubled in the 1980s.

Those who left all submitted themselves to the voluntary screening system operated by an advisory committee chaired by Lord Diamond, the former Labour Cabinet minister.

There are no precise figures on the number of requests that have been rejected by the committee, but that refusal is rare. Some officials have varying spells in purdah on the committee's recommendation.

However, one civil servant, Sir John Garlick, doubled the standard three-month gap between retirement and a new job on his own initiative.

Several Conservative and Labour MPs on the select committee want tougher legally enforced rules as is the case in the United States. Mr Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Great Grimsby, although impartial while chairing the investigation, has been an outspoken critic of the present system outside the committee room.

However, former civil servants now in business have struck back. Sir Frank Cooper, the former Permanent Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Defence (now Babcock International, N M Rothschild, Morgan Crucible, and Westland Helicopters) has said that public servants "have got amazingly high standards in today's British world of morality and ethics... much higher in some ways than one is almost entitled to expect."

Sir Donald MacLennan, the former Permanent Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Energy (now a government appointed director of Britoil and director of Slough Estates), believes that the use of Whitehall experience to

reinforce successful British companies can only benefit the wider national interest.

The select committee's concentration on the private sector appointments of the very top officials obscures the general picture. Some of the most

senior civil servants go into academic life.

Many do voluntary service as well as their business work. An increasing number of those leaving are from the middle ranks which is almost universally regarded as beneficial.

Examples of outside appointments of senior civil servants leaving Whitehall since 1980:

LORD BANCROFT, Head of the Home Office, 1981; Non-executive director BSA, Rugby Portland Cement, Grindlays Bank, Sun Life Assurance, Chairman of the Council, Mansfield College, Oxford, Management Board of the Royal Hospital & Home for incurables.

SIR DOUGLAS WASS, Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, 1983; Head of Economic Strategy Unit, Coopers Lybrand, non-executive director De la Rue, Equity & Law, adviser to the 1984 Campaign for Freedom of Information.

SIR MICHAEL PALLISTER, Head of the Diplomatic Service, 1982; Vice-chairman Samuel Montagu, chairman of the International Institute of Strategic Studies, non-executive director United Biscuits, Shell Transport & Trading, Booker McConnell & Eagle Star Holdings.

SIR PATRICK MALLORY, Permanent Secretary, Department of Health & Social Security, 1981; Master of St Catherine's College, Oxford, chairman Society of Italic Handwriting, trustee National Maritime Museum, member Royal Council on Art.

SIR KENNETH CLUCKAS, Permanent Secretary, Department of Trade, 1981; Member Council on Tribunals, chairman Rutland Foundation on pharmacy, non-executive director Gessinger Holdings, Careras Rothman, Vice Chairman National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux.

SIR PETER CAREY, Permanent Secretary, Department of Industry, 1983; Government director, Cable and Wireless, executive director Morgan Grenfell Holdings, non-executive director BPS Industries, Dalgety.

SIR JOHN GARLICK, Permanent Secretary, Department of the Environment, 1981; Director Anthony National Building Society, member London Docklands Development Corporation.

MIR JOHN LIPPITT, Deputy Secretary, Department of Industry, 1980; Associate director, GEC.

SIR BRIAN TOWSE, Director GCHO 1982; Security consultant, Plessey.

Anglicans urged to back a free Namibia

By Colin Hughes

The international Anglican Communion was urged yesterday to throw its "world wide influence" behind pressure for Namibian independence and the withdrawal of South African forces.

The report, by six leading Anglicans from Britain, the United States, Japan and South Africa, concludes that no democratic settlement can be reached without incorporating the guerrilla organization, Swapo.

It says: "Swapo has overwhelming support, not least from the main-line churches and their leaders."

The South African Government is criticized for its 18-year "illegal occupation" of Namibia, and the authors find a "disturbing and profound scepticism" among Namibians about the international diplomatic community's will to implement the United Nations resolution calling for independence.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, who received the report agreed to

SDP may change selection rules

By Our Political Editor

The Social Democrats are to consider changing their rules for choosing by-election candidates so as to make it easier for star performers to be fielded in important contests.

The proposed change, which the SDP's national committee will be asked to approve next week, will mean that in future all prospective candidates will be selected on the basis that their political fitness will be reconsidered if a by-election occurs.

Mr Mike Thomas, former SDP MP for Newcastle East and chairman of the party's organization committee, said yesterday it was crucial for the party to ensure that it had the best candidates for by-elections. There was no reason why a good general election candidate should necessarily also be able to handle the special pressures of a by-election.

There are positive and negative reasons for Mr Thomas's proposal, which has been canvassed within the SDP

national committee for some time.

The negative reason is the wish to ensure that a weak or unsuitable candidate can be painlessly removed before his shortcomings are exposed to the exceptional glare of a by-election campaign.

The party has uncomfortable memories of the Darlington by-election a year ago, when their pleasant but inexperienced standard-bearer, Mr Tony Cook, seemed to lose support throughout the campaign and finished third.

The positive reason is the party's belief that Mrs Shirley Williams and Mr William Rodgers, members of the founding gang of four, may be willing to fight again if the right seat falls vacant; and that there are seats which only figures of comparable calibre are likely to win.

The SDP as well as the Liberals are intensely aware of the value to their joint cause of good by-election performances

MPs unconvinced by spending White Paper

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

Government plans to hold public spending in check have been greeted with scepticism by the influential all-party Treasury select committee.

In a report published on the eve of today's Commons debate on the latest public spending White Paper, the MPs point out that state spending has "regularly and significantly" exceeded planning targets. We see nothing in the White Paper to convince us that a similar pattern of events will not unfold," the committee says.

The Government's plans, which envisage spending rising no faster than prices between now and 1986-87, are in marked contrast to the experience of the past five years, the report states. Between 1978-79 and 1983-84 spending has risen by 7 per cent more than prices, even on the Government's figures.

But when adjusted for changes in the treatment of housing and sickness benefits, reduced national insurance surcharge, sales of state assets and debt interest, spending has risen by 12.5 per cent, or about 25 per cent a year, according to the committee.

The report singles out for criticism official projections showing a big drop in local authority spending and government support for state industries. It says it does not see how the suggested turnaround in industry finances can be achieved without substantial price rises, although ministers deny that.

The MPs also complain that they are not being given enough information about the government's views on the economy in the years ahead.



Mr Jack Taylor, president of the Yorkshire miners in Barnsley yesterday telling miners of the decision to strike from next Monday in protest at pit closures.

Commons critical of coal board

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The National Coal Board and the Department of Energy were criticized yesterday by a committee of MPs for being too slow to react to the emergence of a "thriving growth industry" in compensation claims for subsidence damage to buildings.

Such claims will cost the board £128m more this year than forecast, about £113m of the extra cost being in the north Nottinghamshire coalfield, mainly in Mansfield.

The Select Committee on Energy reported that the number and size of claims over the past year could not be

explained by change in geological conditions.

After referring to the evidence of Mr Ian MacGregor, the coal board chairman, and Mr Don Coscans, Labour MP for Mansfield, that the claims "business" was being exploited by surveyors, the committee voiced concern at the implication that the board had been taken by surprise.

Mr MacGregor told the committee he was sure the board was being "taken for a ride".

Mr Coscans said that "certain gentlemen in and around Mansfield" were advertising in the local paper to help

householders with their claims. One pit, which had a profit of £13m last year, had made a loss this year because of claims.

The committee said estimates of economic reserves at some pits might have to be reduced if less coal were to be extracted.

It said: "We find it difficult to understand why the board, and through them the Department of Energy, did not become aware of the growth of the problem at a much earlier stage and why they did not take appropriate action before further large sums of public money had been committed."

Exercise tests air defences

By Rodney Courtoun

Aircraft from nine nations will be locked in combat until tomorrow evening in a test to see whether Britain can be adequately defended against air attack.

The exercise, codenamed Elder Forest 84, will produce some of the most intensive military flying over Britain since the Second World War.

It began yesterday and concentrated mainly on reconnaissance flights and patrols. Over three days more than 900 sorties will be flown by about 200 aircraft to simulate attacks on RAF stations and radar and missile sites.

The British defences will be reinforced by United States and Danish aircraft.

The exercise will involve most types of RAF aircraft, including Phantoms and Lightnings carrying out interceptions, Vulcan and Victor tankers providing air-to-air refuelling. Shackleton aircraft carrying out long-range patrols to identify enemy attacks, and Hawk trainer aircraft providing short-range defence.

Diplomat charged

Sir Peter Hayman, aged 69, a former diplomat, of Chesham, Oxfordshire, appeared before Reading magistrates yesterday accused of committing an act of gross indecency with Leonard Beach, aged 35, a lorry driver, at a public place in Reading, Berkshire. Both were granted unconditional bail until May 16.

Thatcher blocks questions on son

By Julian Haviland

Political Editor

The Prime Minister again gave a blocking answer yesterday to a question from the Opposition Front Bench about the Oman university contract which has been given to the Cementation construction company for which her son, Mark, acted.

Mr Bryan Gould, a Labour spokesman on trade and industry, asked Mrs Margaret Thatcher from whom the first learned of Cementation's interest in the project, in which she pressed Britain's interest while visiting Oman in 1981.

In a written Commons answer yesterday Mrs Thatcher said she had nothing to add to an answer she gave last week, in which she said there was no record of when she first learned of Cementation's interest in the contract or of her son's interest in Cementation's negotiations.

Mr Gould, with Mr Peter Shore, Labour's principal spokesman on trade and industry, has been trying to establish whether it can or cannot be assumed that the Prime Minister, in raising the contract with the Omanis, was promoting Cementation's interests.

Mr Gould said yesterday that Labour meant to pursue this point, on which Mrs Thatcher had twice avoided answering questions by referring to previous answers, on different aspects of the matter.

Mr Gould said there had been no pretence of answering his question yesterday. It showed the lengths to which the Prime Minister was prepared to go to avoid replying to questions on the matter.

Barclays Bank yesterday began an internal inquiry to discover how details of a bank account operated by Mr Mark Thatcher were leaked to *The Sunday Times* (the Press Association reports).

The newspaper claimed on Sunday to have found that Mrs Thatcher's husband Denis was authorized last year to sign cheques for the Montague Marketing company which Mr Mark Thatcher co-founded.

The newspaper gave details of Mr Mark Thatcher's bank account, including its number

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Sixteen seamen died after lifeboat told aid was not needed, inquiry hears

The Guernsey lifeboat put to sea in 35ft waves and saved nine of the twenty-five crew of the freighter *Radiant Med* despite being told by a French warship that help was not required, an inquiry in London was told yesterday. The other 16 men were lost.

The investigation into the loss of the 2,997 ton Liberian freighter has come after demands from the National Union of Seamen, which has made complaints against the ship's owners.

The decision to hold the investigation in London under Mr Richard Stone, QC, is part of Liberia's policy of improving its image as official owner of the world's largest fleet.

An air/sea operation involving the Royal Navy, the fisheries protection vessel, Orkney, RAF and French helicopters and the French destroyer *Casablanca*, was involved in trying to save the *Radiant Med*'s crew.

Mr Frank Wiswall, for the Liberian Admiralty, said that

the *Radiant Med* was on passage from Ghent in Belgium to the Congo with 5,000 tons of grain. She capsized 18 miles off St Martin's Point, Guernsey, on January 24, and the crew, Filipino seamen and Indian officers, abandoned ship.

The inquiry was told that at about 11.45pm the *Radiant Med* fired a distress signal and the *Casablanca* was seen approaching. The final message sent to the *Casablanca*, saying that the *Radiant Med* was being abandoned, was at 01.13 hours.

Nine survivors in a lifeboat could see the lights of other vessels approaching, and one set of lights, which they took to be the *Casablanca*, came within 20 metres. After a time the Guernsey lifeboat, the *Sir William Arnold*, came alongside and the lifeboatmen dragged the nine survivors on board.

Mr Wiswall said that at one stage the *Casablanca* said it did not need lifeboat support. The last message from the *Radiant Med*, at 01.13 hours, said that

the ship was going down "any time". At the same time the *Casablanca* assured the *Radiant Med* that it was just astern.

The inquiry was told that the *Radiant Med* was listing heavily and saying that it required immediate assistance, and the Guernsey lifeboat crew decided to launch the *Sir William Arnold* anyway.

The *Radiant Med*'s chief mate Mr Subhas Singh Tanwar, said waves were washing the deck before the ship capsized. Two pontoons were dislodged and she shipped water through the gap. The hold was "absolutely full" of water.

The *Casablanca* said she was coming close with scrambling nets, but the *Radiant Med* went down very fast, he told the inquiry. He and 10 or 12 other men jumped in the water wearing life-jackets.

The *Casablanca* was very close and they expected her to come over. Eventually he was taken on board the Guernsey lifeboat.

The inquiry continues today



Woolly winners: The winning three students in the Designed for Princess Diana hand-knitting competition wearing their sweaters in London yesterday. First prize went to Judith Watson (left), aged 31, of Epsom School of Art and Design; second was Karina Mrowiec (centre), aged 22, of Berkshire College of Art and Design; and third Jane Hunter, aged 22, of Liverpool Polytechnic. (Photograph: Suresh Karadia).

Computer company pledge on prices

By Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

Apple Computer (UK), the British subsidiary of Apple Computer of the United States, which pioneered the personal computer, has been accused of attempting to fix a minimum for resale prices in shops.

Complaints of attempts at price-fixing have also been made against other computer manufacturers. The Office of Fair Trading said yesterday. So far its investigations have led only to action against Apple.

Sir Gordon Borris, Director-General of Fair Trading, said yesterday that Apple had given him written assurances that it would not attempt in future to maintain resale prices.

Apple is telling its retailers they are free to sell Apple systems at whatever price they choose.

The office acted after a retailer complained that Apple had withheld supplies because of his discounting.

Under the Resale Prices Act suppliers must make it a condition of supply that goods will not be sold below a specified price.

Manufacturers can suggest a retail price provided there is no implication that a dealer selling at a reduced price may suffer reprisals.

Since a new wave of personal computers has appeared price competition in the field has intensified.

Apple in the United States reported sharply reduced earnings in the last quarter of 1983. The first half of this year is also likely to be affected and then profit margins are expected to improve.

IBM, a late entrant into the personal computer market, reduced its prices a few weeks ago.

M6 repairs

A three-year renovation of 22 miles of the M6 between Broughton and Hampson Green in Lancashire will start within a week. The work will cost £15m.

Criticism of Law Society intensifies

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs Correspondent

The growing lobby for reforms in the way the Law Society handles complaints has been joined by the National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux, which handles 10,000 complaints about solicitors a year.

It is backing the call for an independent, lay element in the society's handling of complaints, after the internal Law Society report last week on the Glanville Davies affair.

The report had described as a disgrace the way the society had handled the case of Mr Davies, a solicitor who was struck off the roll for overcharging a client by £131,000.

The association also wants the society to have power to deal not only with proven professional misconduct, as at present, but with incompetence and to have power to order compensation for aggrieved clients.

An article in the latest law *Society Gazette* says that the present remedies of negligence actions in the courts and the law society's own investigatory powers "fail to provide adequate recourse for a substantial number of complaints about solicitors".

The association is backing the society's intention to seek increased statutory powers to handle complaints and urges it "actively to seek legislative time in the next parliamentary session".

But the author of the article, Mrs Barbara Stow, the association's legal services officer, says that this will not be sufficient, redress would be limited to reductions in fees and the correction of errors.

Self-policing professions, page 4

Changing times for rural readers

By Hugh Clayton

Advice about feeding trout and keeping mice out of the vegetable garden rubs shoulders with advertisements for country houses and shotguns in the latest issue of *The Field*. It is the last to be edited by Mr Derek Bingham, who left his office on Friday.

The latest issue reflects Mr Bingham's determination to keep the paper true to its 131-year-old tradition of speaking to the landed families of England. Sir Richard Butler, president of the National Farmers' Union, is pictured in the latest issue in full hunting rig as chairman of the East Essex foxhounds.

That symbolises the appeal of the paper during Mr Bingham's editorship of almost seven years to a precisely defined but dwindling readership. *The Field* tells its readers not only about farming and field sports, but also about the politics of the Church of England.

Newspapers which publish *The Field* as well as the *Daily Mail*, has said nothing about Mr Bingham's departure. Sources at Harrow Press, the Associated subsidiary which publishes *The Field*, said at first that he was to be succeeded by Mr Simon McCorquodale.

But Mr Simon Courtland, deputy editor of *The Spectator*

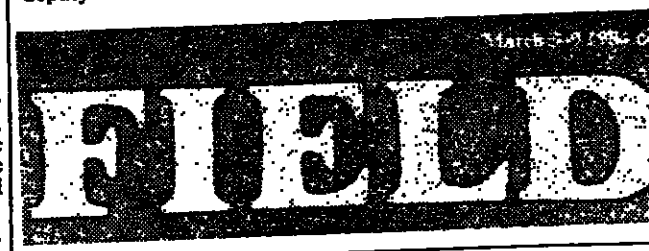


Mr Courtland: Expects to take over in May.

and a former legal affairs correspondent of *The Times*, said yesterday that he was to become editor of *The Field* in May.

Mr Courtland said yesterday that he wanted to broaden the appeal of his new paper for those who live in and those who like the countryside. "In general the idea is to make it bigger and better", he said.

The paper has an editorial staff of six and relies heavily on a small group of expert contributors who supply such regular features as hunting reports and Notes from the Pooting Shed. Some contributors write under their own names and under pseudonyms. Like other magazines aiming at a rural readership, *The Field* has lost some of its market in recent years.



Joint satellite TV faces delays

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The Government's plans for a comprehensive direct broadcast by satellite (DBS) television network beaming into British homes within two years are likely to be delayed by difficulties over legal issues and disagreements between the partners in the project.

Although the installation of the £400m satellite television network as soon as possible is still seen as a priority by the Prime Minister, there is now a widespread belief that the earliest such a system could come into operation is 1988.

Furthermore, the chief broadcasting partners in the project,

the BBC and the independent television companies, are likely to exact a heavy ideological price for going ahead with a scheme that the Government regards as a vital job-creation opportunity.

The Independent Broadcasting Authority is expected tomorrow, to back the independent television companies' demands for open-ended television franchises, which could give them licences in perpetuity.

The extension of the independent television franchises will infuriate the advertising industry, which is critical of the "duopoly" that the BBC and commercial stations hold over

television, the companies have argued that without the duopoly they will not be able to raise sufficient capital to pay for their share of the satellite.

The IBA has reached its conclusion by a different route. Because it believes the last round of franchise renewals in 1980 were highly unsatisfactory, it proposes a new system of franchises based on rigorous continual assessment of the performance of independent television companies.

At present each franchise is reviewed after a set period to enable rival groups to fight for it.

Computer horizons, page 22

Painting's origin uncertain

By Geraldine Norman

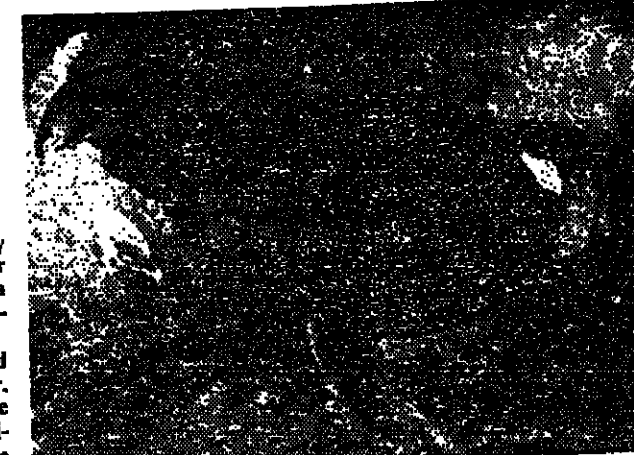
Christie's is having difficulty deciding whether a watercolour it sold on December 13 was a "deliberate forgery" or genuine.

The seller, Mr Ronald Leyton, a Beckenham dealer, has put pressure on the auctioneers through his solicitors because he has not had the £2,860 sale price, or the drawing back.

The watercolour is "Study of a Cock", strongly signed J. Crawhall. Joseph Crawhall was a turn of the century Scottish artist who specialized in painting birds and cows. His work is keenly collected in Scotland.

The purchaser was Andrew Whitfield, of the Carlton Gallery, Edinburgh, who was not able to check the painting until he returned home.

Then he discovered that an identical painting on linen in the Barrail collection in Glasgow. Since Crawhall was not known for different versions of the same subject, Whitfield concluded it must be a forgery and returned it to Christie's a few days after the sale.



Unknown quantity: "Study of a Cock".

While buyers must in general beware of faults in the items on which they bid an exception is made for "deliberate forgeries". Christie's will rescind a sale if the purchaser can prove "deliberate forgery".

On the back of the receipt given to a vendor it is stated that "Christie's are authorized to set aside the sale" if the property is proved a "deliberate forgery". That must be done within a "reasonable period" after the sale.

Mr Leyton says that period is nearly over.

Christie's says that it has asked Mr Whitfield to supply written evidence within 10 days. Mr Whitfield is surprised

that Christie's has not been prepared to express a view. He hopes to receive a written opinion from Mr Andrew Patrick, director of the Fine Art Society, to settle the issue.

Mr Leyton says he bought the watercolour from a dealer who has sold him many genuine drawings. He paid £100 and spent £35 having it framed.

Waxworks ban on accused

John Kevin Acland, a civil servant, aged 21, of Sherington Avenue, Hatch End, north-west London, who is accused of damaging the Sleeping Beauty and other models at Madame Tussaud's in London on Sunday, was banned from the waxworks house as a condition of bail by Marylebone magistrates yesterday.

He was remanded until March 26.

Natural mother

Mrs Roselyne Walker, aged 33, of Mosborough, Sheffield, who had a test-tube baby 12 years ago, has baffled doctors by becoming naturally pregnant.

She is expecting twins.

Blaze deaths

John Quinn, aged 38, and his daughter Bernadette, aged five, died in a fire at their home in Leytonstone, east London, yesterday. His wife and six other children escaped.

Court powers

Courts are to be given the power from October 1 under the Mental Health Act to send mentally disordered offenders to psychiatric hospitals for assessment and treatment rather than to prison.

Man denies stealing rescue-alert beacon

A £99 radio distress beacon stolen from a North Sea gas rig caused an international search when it went wrong, Ipswich Crown Court was told yesterday.

Rescue helicopters were scrambled after "bleeps" from the beacon were picked up by a foreign space satellite.

It was only after a fruitless air-sea search that the source of the mystery signal was traced to a house in Erskine, Strathclyde, where the defective beacon was found lying on top of a wardrobe.

Leslie Brown, an engineer, aged 36, of Erskine, has pleaded not guilty to a charge of stealing the beacon.

Mrs Caroline Ludlow, for the

Phone help for heart victims

A telephone service to enable untrained people to help heart attack victims was launched in Avon yesterday.

Callers who dial 999 are told how to give mouth-to-mouth resuscitation until an ambulance crew arrives. The advice is given by a telephone operator at an ambulance station, reading from a script.

The idea comes from Seattle, in the United States, where it increased the survival rate of heart victims. It can also help with drug overdoses.

Dr Peter Baskett, a consultant anaesthetist, who helped to write the script, said: "The victim of a heart attack will normally suffer brain damage within four minutes, so fast action can be a life-saver."

Firm with summer camp at Harrow in liquidation

By John Witherow

A company set up an American-style summer camp at Harrow during the summer holidays has gone into liquidation, owing the public school about £50,000.

The company, which attracted investment from wealthy Arab parents, organized elaborate sporting activities at the school which included go-karting, para-descending, water-skiing and riding.

Several hundred children attended the camp in 1982 and 1983 but the company, The International English School, or

Shoe prices likely to rise

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Leather footwear prices are likely to rise soon by at least 5 per cent, the equivalent of £2.50 on a £50 pair of shoes.

The British Footwear Manufacturers Federation yesterday predicted the increase, which is blamed on a sharp rise in the costs of raw hides. In the five months to the end of January hide prices have increased by more than 44 per cent, with January showing a jump of nearly 47 per cent.

Hide prices account for about a quarter of the cost of an all leather shoe when it leaves the

factory gate.

Some manufacturers have been stockpiling hides, so price rises could show through gradually in the shops, probably from spring to the autumn. There has also been some rise in prices of non-leather shoe materials, with an increase of 7.3 per cent over five months accelerating to 7.9 per cent in January.

Shop prices so far have moved little, according to the federation. In 12 months to the end of January prices rose by 1 per cent.

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PARLIAMENT March 5 1984

Growing concern over arts funding after end of GLC

COMMONS

The pattern of funding for the arts in the areas affected by the planned abolition of the GLC and the metropolitan county councils will depend on the outcome of deliberations by the Earl of Gowrie, Minister for the Arts, who is now carefully considering the many representations made to him during the consultation period. Mr William Waldegrave, Under Secretary of State for the Arts, said during Commons questions.

Mr Patrick Cormack (South Staffordshire, C) asked if the Minister had read *The Times* leading article on the subject on Saturday and said many people felt the decision to abolish the councils was a great political gesture by the Government without it having thought through the consequences. Will he ensure (he went on) that the Earl of Gowrie produces a consultation paper when he has had a chance to consider all the various representations made about the implications of this decision?

Mr Waldegrave: I did read the leading article, which I thought bore all the hallmarks of leader produced by a committee. There were several

different strands running through it. It covered most of the issues and there are certainly well known to the Government. The Earl of Gowrie will be bringing forward a paper which will respond.

Mr Sydney Chapman (Chipping Barnet, C) will he recognize that *The Times* leader on Saturday spoke for many Londoners when it said the last thing they want, in the event of the abolition of the GLC, is a continuity of councils with power to precept boroughs for an arts element?

While in the event of the abolition of the GLC some of the major London arts functions might be taken over by the Arts Council, could he look into the proposal that some of the minor functions might be encouraged to be taken up by the boroughs having an element for the arts in the rate support grant settlement?

Mr Waldegrave: If we intended the boroughs to take on a larger role in arts funding that would be reflected in their rate support grant settlement. I accept that the least satisfactory solution for the arts would be a joint board. That is my own view.

Mr Norman Beckham, Opposition spokesman on the arts, (Paisley

Cormack: Political gesture not thought through

South, Lab): How many of the 500 or so representations received have approved of the idea? Is he aware of the anxiety that exists in theatre, music and literature about what is happening in the metropolitan authorities and the GLC? Will he tell the Earl of Gowrie that there should be no decision made in relation to this without a debate on this topic in the House?

We have had a call from hundreds of people, from Lord Olivier to Brian Rix, Bruce Forsyth to Mr Norman St John-Stevens, to which he must pay attention.

Mr Waldegrave: *The Times* leader was correct in saying it would be absurd to defend the structure of local government simply because of the funding of the arts. I was not much impressed by the signed advertisement produced by a public relations firm for the GLC, but I am aware of the genuine concern. It is not the intention of local government reorganization to damage the arts.

RATE CAPPING

The Rating and Valuation (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill - which would bring in a similar system of rate capping to that in the Rates Bill for England and Wales - needed to be made law by the summer, Mr John Biffen, Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House, told the Commons when moving the imposition of a guillotine motion on the remaining stages of the Scottish Bill.

The motion provides that the standing committee should report the Bill to the House by March 20 and that the report stage and third reading will be completed on one day.

Mr Biffen said that in a spirit of cooperation and reasonableness the Government was happy to accept an Opposition amendment which would allow the report stage and third reading to be debated up to midnight, rather than 10 p.m.

He said that, like the Rates Bill for England and Wales, this measure would help ratepayers by penalizing local authorities which overspent.

Local authorities will still (he added) be free to decide rate levels within the limit. It will, however, protect ratepayers from exorbitant rate levels. It will also mean local authorities must consult non-domestic ratepayers before fixing rates. This will mean that local authorities will be fully aware of the impact of their proposed rates.

For two years running, Scottish ratepayers had had to face rate increases of more than 30 per cent.

The second part of the Bill made a series of changes to valuation legislation in Scotland by improving the structure of the system and removing anomalies.

The standing committee had already debated the Bill for 82 hours and had considered only one of the 17 clauses. There were also no clauses which had been put down still to be debated.

The most contentious parts of the Bill had been dealt with although the still important parts to be discussed.

Mr Peter Shore, chief Opposition spokesman on Commons affairs (Bethnal Green and Stepney, Lab) said Mr Biffen had shown a

surprising insensitivity about this Bill, a failure to recognize its constitutional significance. They were talking about a fundamental change in the relationship between central and local government, and those of elected local councils.

Among the things they had learnt from the Bill were the practical effects of the transfer of rate-making from the 65 major councils in Scotland to the Secretary of State. The Bill told the House that the 10 Conservative backbenchers were an additional 10 bureaucrats in New St Andrew's House in Edinburgh who would take over the functions of all the elected councillors.

No doubt, he civil servants concerned in decision-making would be conscientious and able men and women; but it was ludicrous to suppose that they had the knowledge of the circumstances of the different councils throughout Scotland that the hundreds of elected councillors possessed.

This measure was deeply opposed by the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, who had some right to be taken seriously in their considered opinion on the White Paper and the Bill based upon it. The Government was getting close to the abolition of local democracy. It was necessary to search far and wide to find any comparison with what the Government was introducing.

What made this timetable motion especially odd as well as objectionable was the progress in committee on the Bill had already been substantial.

He could find no explanation for this rush to impose a timetable and closing doors than the general tendency of the Government to the administrative arrangements for 1985-86 beginning to take place within local authorities later this year.

Mr Donald Stewart (Western Isles, SNP) said people had asked him in the last week or two if he could get the Government to invade the Western Isles so that they could get some proper funding from the British Government.

The powers of elected representatives were being eroded by the Bill. Councillors were going to be reduced to the job of rubber-stamping decisions from central government. He opposed the intention of curtailing debate on the Bill and would be voting against the Bill.

Mr Michael Hirst (Strathkelvin and Bearsden, C) said the Bill had generated less correspondence to him than any other matter and the only letters about it among his large correspondence were those



Stewart: Invitation to Argentinians

expressing sorrow that the Government had not undertaken lock, stock and barrel reform of domestic rates.

The Bill was essential to protect ratepayers from pernicious rate rises and other benefits it would bring to Scotland. The Opposition was seeking to deny the people of Scotland that protection.

Mr Ernest Ross (Dumfries West, Lab) said the Bill represented the rhetoric of a government that had done little to help ratepayers in Scotland. He described the Government's claims during two elections.

Behind the legislation lay the wish of the Government to weaken all levels of local government because it had no control over it.

Mr Archy Kirkwood (Roxburgh and Berwickshire, Lib) said Opposition facing such a large Government majority were not being realistic if they expected to get round guillotine motions of this kind simply by wasting time.

The Alliance view was that Bills should be timetabled under a procedure involving all parties at an early stage, instead of being guillotined at such a late stage with many clauses and amendments not being discussed at all.

Mr John Hesse Robertson (East Lothian, Lab) said he made no apology for tabling probing and substantive amendments in the standing committee. That was what the committee was for. What he found deplorable was the party that had won only 28 per cent of the votes in Scotland had 61 per cent of the seats on the committee, the 10 Conservative backbenchers had maintained total silence throughout.

It was also deplorable that the two most important clauses had been stage managed so that they were dealt with after midnight when there was none there to hear them.

Mr Gerald Malone (Aberdeen South, C) said the Opposition were merely trying to impress their constituents; they had the same message to give to the English counterparts. But blame for the guillotine lay with them because they had changed from a constructive approach to one that made the motion necessary.

Mr Michael Forsyth (Stirling, C) said there were many clauses of the Bill, such as the valuation proposals, which should be given more scrutiny. But it was important to get this legislation on the statute book as soon as possible, and it was already having effects on local councils.

The amendments were agreed to and the amended motion carried by 280 votes to 178 - Government majority, 102.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Debate on Expenditure White Paper. Lords (2.30): Housing and Building Control Bill, committee, second day.

Mr Raymond Gower (Vale of Glamorgan, C) said he gave an assurance that the terms of reference will be as wide as possible to embrace the alternatives mentioned by Mr Adley. Will they include the possibility of a barrage?

Mr Stradling Thomas: I can assure the House that the terms of reference will be widely drawn. One proviso is that we do not wish to delay stating the terms of reference and so the idea of a barrage must stand or fall on its ability to generate electricity.

Wigley has proved himself 'rotten to core'

Those who tried to advance the cause of the Welsh language by denying free speech, as some did to the Secretary of State for Wales (Mr Nicholas Edwards) over the weekend, caused great harm to the cause they sought to serve and undermined a great deal of the good will that existed towards the language.

Mr W. R. Jones, Under Secretary of State for Wales, said at question time in the Commons.

He was replying to Sir Anthony Meyer (Clwyd North West, C), who said that people calling for breaches of the Official Secrets Act who demonstrated their bootlegging to Mr Edwards, the Secretary of State, did much to damage the cause of the Welsh language.

Mr Dafydd Wigley (Caernarfon, Pl C) after the Tory Government in 1979 broke election pledges on the fourth estate the only way people could remind it of that promise was by refusing to buy a television licence.

Would he repudiate what was said by two Conservative MPs this (Monday) morning that the £2m - the mere £2m - spent on the Welsh language is a waste of money? Is that the attitude of Tory backbench MPs in England?

Mr Roberts: The over £2m we are giving towards the Welsh language is four times as much as was given by the Labour Government whom we fully supported.

With regard to his other points, he has simply confirmed the opinion we already had that in supporting those who attacked Mr Edwards he has proved himself a bad egg and as rotten to the core as much of the stuff that was thrown at the Secretary of State.

Crime down and clear-up rate higher

HOUSE OF LORDS

As a result of the new strategy introduced by the Metropolitan Police Commissioner there had been a drop in the crime rate for London. Lord Elton, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, said at question time in the House of Lords.

He told Lord Grimond (L) that the total number of offences recorded by the Metropolitan Police in 1983 was 4 per cent less than in 1982.

Lord Grimond asked about the figures for the rest of the country and also inquired whether the fall in crime in the capital coincided with the decision to put more policemen on the beat on foot.

Lord Elton said there had been an overall decline of 1 per cent over the police forces of the country.

He added: We see this as being the result of the new strategy introduced by the Commissioner, but - as he himself has pointed out - it is a little early to draw any final conclusions from the first batch of figures.

Questioned about the crime detection rate the minister said the rate of clear-up had risen from 16 to 17 per cent.

House sales

Sir George Young, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, said in a Commons written reply that it was provisionally estimated that 141,000 local authority and new town dwellings in England were sold in 1983.

Possible problems for Commons staff

TRAVEL

Since January 1982 members of the House of Commons staff have been required to report intended visits by them to some Communist countries to departmental heads and these had been opportunities for staff representatives since then. Mr Alan Beith (Berwick-upon-Tweed, L) said in the Commons answering questions for the House of Commons Commission.

Mr Donald Coleman (Neath, Lab) asked him why it was necessary for this limitation of the staff of the House and what special reasons there were which require staff to be treated differently from MPs in using their own time?

Mr Beith: The purpose of the requirement is to ensure staff have access to advice which may be used in travelling to countries where

Close check being kept on fowl pest

AGRICULTURE

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has the first outbreaks of Newcastle disease (fowl pest) in poultry since 1978 under the closest investigation to try to discover whether they are connected with each other and to find out their origin. Mrs Peggy Fennar, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food said in the Commons.

In a statement about the outbreaks of the disease last week in Shropshire and near Thirsk in North Yorkshire, Mrs Fennar said the two outbreaks had been confirmed as being connected with the Government policy on vaccination.

Questioned about the new strategy, she said: We are being very careful about the disease, including declarations of infected areas, movement restrictions and the results of the new strategy.

Is she satisfied (he asked) that there is no external overseas source of infection? Will she keep the House informed of further developments because only 14 years ago the British poultry industry lost 44 million heads of poultry in such an outbreak. Can she assure us that everything that can be done will be done?

Mrs Fennar: I can certainly assure him that everything that can be done will be done. Both origin and connection are under closest investigation and I will tell the House of the latest news.

Mr Tony Baldry (Banbury, C): Many poultry farmers are concerned that these outbreaks may be

directly related to the large number of chickens being imported from our European partners.

Can she assure us that every effort will be made to ensure that there is no connection between EEC imports and the outbreaks?

Mrs Fennar: Every investigation as to origin is being and will be made. The ministry will do everything possible to find the origin of the disease.

In a further reply she said: We shall do everything possible to restrict these outbreaks. Following confirmation of the disease, infected area restrictions were imposed on a 10 kilometre radius.

Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Warrington, Lab): What is the Government position on vaccination?

Mrs Fennar: The general application of vaccination by owners would have to be considered as an option if the slaughter policy was seen to be likely to fail, but vaccination under ministry control around outbreaks would represent another option.

What to give up during Lent

Referring to the speech by Mr John Butcher, Under Secretary of State for Trade and Industry at the weekend when he called on clergymen to give up political gifts, Mr John Biffen (Blyth Valley, Lab) asked Sir William van Swaenbeek, Second Church Estates Commissioner, representing the Church Commissioners: What is his view of the absurd speech made by an obscure junior minister?

Sir William van Swaenbeek: Personally, I think that during Lent one should try to give up something you will miss. (Laughter.)

Farmers see need for change

WALES

Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, said during Commons question time exchanges that he believed farmers understood the need to deal with a situation in which large surpluses were being produced at excessive cost.

Asked by Mr Dafydd Wigley (Caernarfon, Pl C) for an assessment of economic prospects for farming in Wales, Mr Edwards said the measures needed to reduce surpluses and control public expenditure on agriculture were bound to affect farming incomes in Wales as elsewhere.

But (he added) I believe that Welsh farmers are well capable of adapting to the changes.

Mr Wigley: Many Welsh dairy farmers are worried that the agricultural and horticultural development schemes will have a roll forward provision for the six months from January 1.

As many farms in Wales are mixed farms, how will it be possible to differentiate between dairy farming and non-dairy farming elements in respect of investment in, for example, soil improvement and fencing?

Mr Edwards: At the moment existing schemes are being rolled over because agreement has not yet been reached on future provision.

In Wales Mr Edwards said the negotiations currently going on, it is too early to speculate exactly how farmers will have to deal with matters not finally settled.

Mr Geraint Howells (Ceredigion and North Pembrokeshire, L) is he in favour of introducing a quota system to persuade Welsh farmers to produce extra food from the land?

Mr Edwards: I am certain a large number of Welsh farmers and Welsh agriculturalists believe a quota system may be the best way to protect individual farms in a period of change.

The current negotiations in Europe lend one to the conclusion that some form of quota system

may emerge even though this Government advocated a system based on price.

Mr Tom Hooson (Brecon and Radnor, C): There is great satisfaction in the hill areas of Wales at the success of the Government in obtaining a reduction of the less favoured area definition.

Mr Edwards: I am sure the announcement that we have been successful in the negotiations on marginal land will be widely welcomed. It has been fought for over a long period and it is a considerable contribution once we have been able to introduce the new arrangements.

Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Warrington, Lab): Should farming prospects in Wales be so dependent on the local history of the less favoured area definition?

Mr Edwards: I am sure the announcement that we have been successful in the negotiations on marginal land will be widely welcomed. It has been fought for over a long period and it is a considerable contribution once we have been able to introduce the new arrangements.

Mr Robert Adley (Christchurch, C): The terms of reference of the feasibility study to look into the building of a second Severn crossing would be announced in the not too distant future. Mr John Stradling Thomas, Minister of State, Welsh Office, said during questions in the Commons.

He said he had received representations from the Welsh Office of the CBL, representing commercial interests and local authorities. These clearly indicated a welcome for the study and he knew that these sentiments were widely shared in Wales.

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Self-policing professionals: 2 Medical council tougher on sexual misconduct than treatment errors

In the second of a three part series, PETER EVANS, Home affairs Correspondent, examines moves to reform the General Medical Council, the cases it handles and the penalties available.

Sexual relations with a patient are more likely to get a doctor into trouble with the General Medical Council (GMC) than wrong diagnosis or treatment. Or, as Mr David Teuch, legal officer of the GMC's Council, said: "A doctor is in real deep trouble if he puts his hand on the knee of a family patient; but if he kills her by wrong diagnosis, in terms of professional misconduct he could well be in the clear."

That is the serious charge levelled against the council after recent disciplinary cases which have led to misgivings by MPs, one of whom, Mr Nigel Spearman, Labour MP for Newham South, has planned to introduce a private member's Bill to reform the council's powers.

A case which dramatized the issue concerned a doctor's long sexual relationship with a patient which resulted in him being suspended from his practice for nine months. The decision not to strike

Cases considered

Referred to Professional Committee

Letters of admonition or advice sent

Disregard of personal responsibilities to patients

Abuse of alcohol

Abuse of drugs

Non bona fide prescribing

Others of addictive drugs

Breach of professional confidence

Emotional or sexual relationships with a patient

Disturbance

Violence

Indecency

Advertising or canvassing

Improper financial transaction

Other cases

reflected in its annual report for 1982.

Five doctors were penalized by suspension from improper relations with patients. A third came from the conviction of a doctor with a long previous record. In another, a doctor issued many prescriptions for drugs for fees "otherwise than in the course of bona fide treatment". The fifth concerned a doctor who charged high fees for injections "of an undisclosed nature" after diagnoses of two patients which was not subsequently confirmed by hospital examination.

Judging by its reaction towards serious professional misconduct proven in the past 10 years, the council appears to take a more serious view of the worst examples of emotional relations with a patient, penalties range from suspension to erasure, depending on what happened. Where a doctor has seriously disregarded responsibilities to a patient, penalties range from admonition to suspension, although erasure would be an available sanction.

In cases resulting in erasure, suspension or the making of registration subject to conditions, doctors can appeal to the Privy Council.

Tomorrow: The Church

Minister in Lent clash unrepentant

By Craig Seton

Mr John Butcher, the minister criticized for his comments on the quasi-political professions of clergymen, indicated yesterday that he would not give up provocative statements for Lent.

Mr Butcher, Under-Secretary for Trade and Industry, upset clergymen and Labour politicians by suggesting that some churchmen were in danger of being viewed with the cynicism usually reserved for politicians if they intervened too often in political debate.

He had also suggested that some clergymen should give up politics as their contribution to the spirit of Lent.

Last year Mr Butcher issued an apology for implying that Northern people were workshy but yesterday, on an official visit to Birmingham, he would not concede that his latest comments were a blunder.

He said: "Looking at the remarks of those of the clergy are much more measured and considered than those of the two or three dial-a-quote politicians who really should do their homework."

Mr Butcher said on BBC Radio yesterday that the issue was part of a debate which had continued for 60 years - the role of the church and state and the church within the state (the Press Association reports).

Man in the news Siege chief to lead London's detectives

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Reporter

John Dellow, police commander at the Iranian embassy siege, who headed the inquiry into the Fagan affair, is to take overall control of London's detectives this month.

Mr Dellow, aged 52, has been appointed assistant commissioner in charge of C department, which has 3,400 officers.

But the man who will direct groups such as the Flying Squad has spent much of his career in uniform and has been a Metropolitan Police officer for just over 10 years. In some ways Mr Dellow has been the high-flying backroom boss.

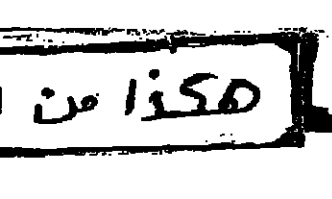
Born in London, Mr Dellow joined the City of London force

after working for Shell and then in personnel selection with the RAO during national service. Mr Dellow became an inspector in the City force before going to the police staff college at Bramshill.

He then joined the Kent force, rising from superintendent to assistant chief constable before moving to the Yard in 1973. He joined the Metropolitan Police as deputy assistant commissioner in charge of traffic planning and moved through several postings including personnel, the inspectorate and as deputy assistant commissioner in charge of number two police area.

It was in that role he was thrust into the glare of publicity in the spring of 1982 at the Iranian embassy. He appeared a dapper, precisely spoken man with something of the air of the military officer in mufti about him; he was earlier the first police officer to attend military staff college.

In 1982, Mr Dellow, assistant commissioner in charge of training and technical support, investigated police failings at Buckingham Palace after Michael Fagan reached the Queen's bedroom. His report provided the basis for radical changes in the command system.



Mr Dellow: Dapper and precise.

Government lacks political finesse

The connexion between the banan skins is a lack of political finesse. It is something that easily develops in a strong government that has been long in power, especially when it is facing opposition. The need to explain and to judge the reactions of others in advance becomes less pressing.

When things go politically wrong for a government it is customary to call for better coordination in the presentation of its case. There is something in this although not, I suspect, so much as is often supposed. Lord Whitlaw of Perth cannot be so well equipped for this task now that he is in the Lords as he would be if he were still in the Commons. He is not there to sense the ebb and flow of parliamentary opinion where it is fiercest, but he is better suited temperamentally for this particular job than Mr Biffen was.

It is a mistake, though, to imagine that any coordinator could make up for deficiencies in the political arts among departmental ministers. The danger for this government is that both in its composition and its approach it may be too heavily weighted towards administration and not enough towards politics.

Commentary



Geoffrey Smith

How bad has morale really become on the Conservative backbenches? It is hardly a good sign when the chairman of the 1922 Committee suggests that the Prime Minister should appoint a deputy and lighten her workload. Nor when such an experienced MP as Sir Kenneth Lewis argues, as he did in a powerful letter to *The Times* a week ago, that the Cheltenham episode is a watershed in the life of this Government. But is this criticism representative of opinion among Conservative members?

I doubt if it is at this stage. Certainly a number of Conservative MPs are not only extremely disturbed by the way the Government has dealt with the GCHQ issue, but regard this as a symptom of a deeper malaise. They tend, though, to be either the more experienced or the disenchanted, or both.

Natural justice of banana skin

There are those who have never in their heart agreed with the Thatcherite approach, and have been inclined to see each slide on a banana skin as evidence of natural justice. There are also those who have seen over the years how easily a government's authority can melt.

They rejoined in the victory of last June but they felt instinctively that it was too good to last. They are probably more aware than their younger colleagues of the traps that lie in wait for even the most resolute of administrations.

Mandela offered freedom if he will agree to live in Transkei

From Michael Hornsby
Johannesburg

Mr Nelson Mandela, the African National Congress leader who is serving a term of imprisonment for sabotage, could be set free if he agrees to live in Transkei, one of South Africa's four nominally independent, but internationally unrecognized black tribal mini-states.

This claim had been made by friends of the Mandela family, who say that Chief Kaiser Matanzima, the President of the Xhosa-speaking Transkei, offered the deal to Mrs Winnie Mandela, the ANC leader's wife, at a meeting two weeks ago in Umtata, the Transkei capital.

Chief Matanzima is not, of course, in a position to order Mr Mandela's release, but it is unlikely he would have made the offer without Pretoria's approval. A cousin of Mr Mandela, Chief Matanzima is believed to have made the same offer at least twice before in recent years.

Mr Mandela has always turned down release on these terms. It is understood that



Nelson Mandela: Rejected earlier freedom deals

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Mrs Mandela will put the latest offer to her husband later this week on her regular monthly visit to the Pollsmoor Prison near Cape Town, where he is being held.

The rumours about Mr Mandela, who is in his mid-sixties and had been in jail for 21 years, come less than a week after the release of Mr Herman Toivo in Toivo, the veteran Namibian nationalist and co-founder of Swapo (the South West Africa People's Organization). Mr Toivo still had four years of a 20-year sentence for terrorism to run.

The Ministry of Justice declined comment on the reports, but a spokesman for the Department of Prisons said that the release of Mr Mandela was "not under consideration". A spokesman for Chief Matanzima did not deny the reports, but said such matters were confidential.

US 'manoeuvres' denounced

Toivo comes out still fighting

From Eric Marsden, Windhoek

Now that he is free after 16 years in prison on Robben Island, Mr Herman Toivo, founder of the South West Africa People's Organization, hopes to travel abroad to plead Swapo's imperilled cause.

If his request for travel documents succeeds, he may embark on a tour of the African front line states whose support for Swapo and South Africa's banned African National Congress is wavering in the face of the peace initiative by Pretoria and Washington.

Mr Toivo, aged 59, made known his travel ambitions at a press conference in Windhoek; or rather they were made known for him by Swapo's "foreign secretary", Mr Nico Bessinger, who answered several questions for him and

explained that the freed leader "cannot speak at this time on policy matters for Swapo, as we have had no time to talk". When Mr Toivo started speaking for himself there seemed to be little reason for his colleague's nervousness. His views were forthright. In the 1960s Swapo had had no alternative but to take up arms, and it was fighting still, he said.

He had kept up with the latest events while in prison. "There are manoeuvres taking place at this moment between South Africa, the United States and others. They are doing it all specifically for the US election."

"They want to give credibility to the Reagan Administration because it has failed in Lebanon, Central and South

America, and even to an extent in South Africa because constructive engagement has got them nowhere. They are going to fail."

His outstanding memory of prison days was his close association with the ANC leaders, Mr Nelson Mandela, and Mr Walter Sisulu. "We were one family together."

Explaining his four-hour attempt to resist release in Windhoek prison last Thursday, Mr Toivo said he had finally accepted his freedom after being told that "whether I want to be released or not, the order has been signed and nothing can be done". He had earlier asked to be sent back to Robben Island until all his comrades could be freed with him.

Zimbabwe's white exodus grows

Harare (AFP) - The number of white emigrants from Zimbabwe rose last year while the number of tourists visiting the country declined, according to Government statistics.

Last year, 19,067 people left Zimbabwe, virtually all of them presumed to be white, compared with 17,942 in 1982. The highest yearly emigration figure

was in 1981 when 20,534 people left.

Although most of Zimbabwe is peaceful, reports of dissident violence in the south appears to have discouraged tourists. The decline in visitors to 298,041 last year from 351,046 in 1982 is a significant setback to the country's tourist industry, which had counted on a steady

increase in business after the end of the war for majority rule in 1980.

The number of whites here reached a peak of about 270,000 when it was white-ruled Rhodesia in the 1960s, dwindled to an estimated 200,000 at independence in 1980, and is now estimated to be just above 100,000.



Pomp and circumstance: Mrs Gandhi shares diplomatic courtesies with Marshal Ustinov as, outside the Soviet Embassy in Delhi, Afghans demonstrate.

India rolls out red carpet for Ustinov

From Kuldip Nayar
Delhi

Marshal Dmitri Ustinov, the Soviet Defence Minister, who arrived here yesterday with a 70-strong delegation, met Mrs Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, to discuss political and military relations

between India and the Soviet Union.

Marshal Ustinov gave Mrs Gandhi a message from Mr Konstantin Chernenko, the Soviet leader, whom she met in Moscow at Mr Andropov's funeral. At the airport, flanked by top military officials, including Admiral S. G. Gorshkov,

the Soviet naval chief, Marshal Ustinov said Indo-Soviet friendship and cooperation has been "very good, useful, and it is needed".

He made special mention of the Indo-Soviet pact signed in August, 1971, a few months before the Bangladesh war. "Our cooperation has really

moved in the correct direction," he said. Mr R. Vekateshram, India's Defence Minister, who received the marshal at the airport, said that the marshal's visit so soon after the changes in the Soviet leadership indicated the importance Russia attached to their relations and cooperation with India.

Church and state seek peace with honour

Schools dialogue resumes in France

From Diana Geddes, Paris

In the aftermath at Versailles on Sunday of the biggest demonstration in France since the "events" of May, 1968, the Government and the Roman Catholic Church got back to work yesterday to thrash out a compromise acceptable for their supporters on the future of the predominantly Catholic, private school system.

Both sides seem anxious to reach a quick settlement of this highly contentious issue, which has created deep and bitter divisions in French society over the past three years. But both sides are equally anxious not to appear to have lost face. There must be no victors or vanquished in this battle.

M. Lionel Jospin, First Secretary of the Socialist Party, provoked a flurry of excited headlines proclaiming an imminent total retreat by the Government, when he spoke last week of the need for "greater flexibility" on the private schools' issue, and suggested that the Government had enough on its hands at present with the battle on the

industrial and economic fronts, without engaging in another battle on the educational front.

Yesterday, however, commenting on the estimated 600,000 to 800,000 demonstrators who massed in Versailles to defend "freedom of education", M. Jospin seemed to change his tune when he said that he believed no further concessions should be made, and that it should not be only the Government which sought reconciliation and rapprochement.

M. Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister, spoke about the need for each side to "make the step toward the other", but went on to make clear that the Government had no intention of giving way on the two most hotly contested proposals: "limiting parental choice of private schools to schools within a specified catchment area, and giving teachers in private schools the right to enter into a contract with the state, thereby acquiring job security and other privileges."

There are about 10,000

private schools in France, catering for two million children, representing 15 per cent of the total school population. The vast majority (93 per cent) are Roman Catholic (there are no Catholic schools in the state system), run by the Church with teachers appointed by the Church, but paid for by the state. The state (or local authority) also pays for most of the running costs.

Private schools in France are not the same as independent schools in Britain. They are not so exclusive, not so divisive socially, not nearly so expensive (fees are often no more than £50 a term, although they can rise to £300 or more) and often not so good academically as the best of the British public schools. They are in many ways nearer our voluntary-aided Church schools in the state sector.

Parents send their children to private schools not so much for religious or even academic reasons (the schools vary tremendously in standard), but because they believe the discipline is better, the quality of

teaching higher, moral standards given more importance, and most of all because they have the right to choose the school they want. There is no choice for parents of pupils in state schools.

When President Mitterrand came to power in May, 1981, he promised as one of his "10 propositions" to introduce "a single, large, unified, and secular national education system". However, the unexpected force of the opposition to such a "nationalization" of private schools soon persuaded the socialists to drop the insistence on the "secular" part, and to modify its ideas on unification.

The first set of proposals, brought out by M. Alain Savary, the Education Minister, in December, 1982, would have allowed private schools to keep their "special character" in relation to their religious and intellectual activities, but would have integrated them into the state sector and deprived them of their all-important right to appoint their own teachers.

D'Aubuisson named as death squad organizer

From Nicholas Ashford
Washington

Attempts by the Reagan Administration to gain congressional approval for increased military and economic aid to El Salvador have been further damaged by a series of fresh allegations directly implicating senior Salvadorean officials in acts of political terrorism.

According to evidence provided by a former Salvadorean military officer to members of Congress and also to *The New York Times*, Señor Roberto D'Aubuisson, a right-wing politician, organized and continues to direct the "death squads" which have been responsible for thousands of political assassinations. Señor D'Aubuisson is a leading contender in the country's presidential election later this month.

Among those killed on Señor D'Aubuisson's orders were Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero and Señor Mario Zamora, a leading member of the Christian Democratic Party, according to the evidence. Señor D'Aubuisson, who heads the right-wing National Republican Alliance party, was planning to visit Washington this week but US officials said the former Salvadorean Army major had been denied a visa.

Other prominent Salvadorean officials who are said to be directly implicated in death squad activities include Colonel Nicolás Carranza, chief of the Treasury Police, and General José Guillermo García, the former Defence Minister.

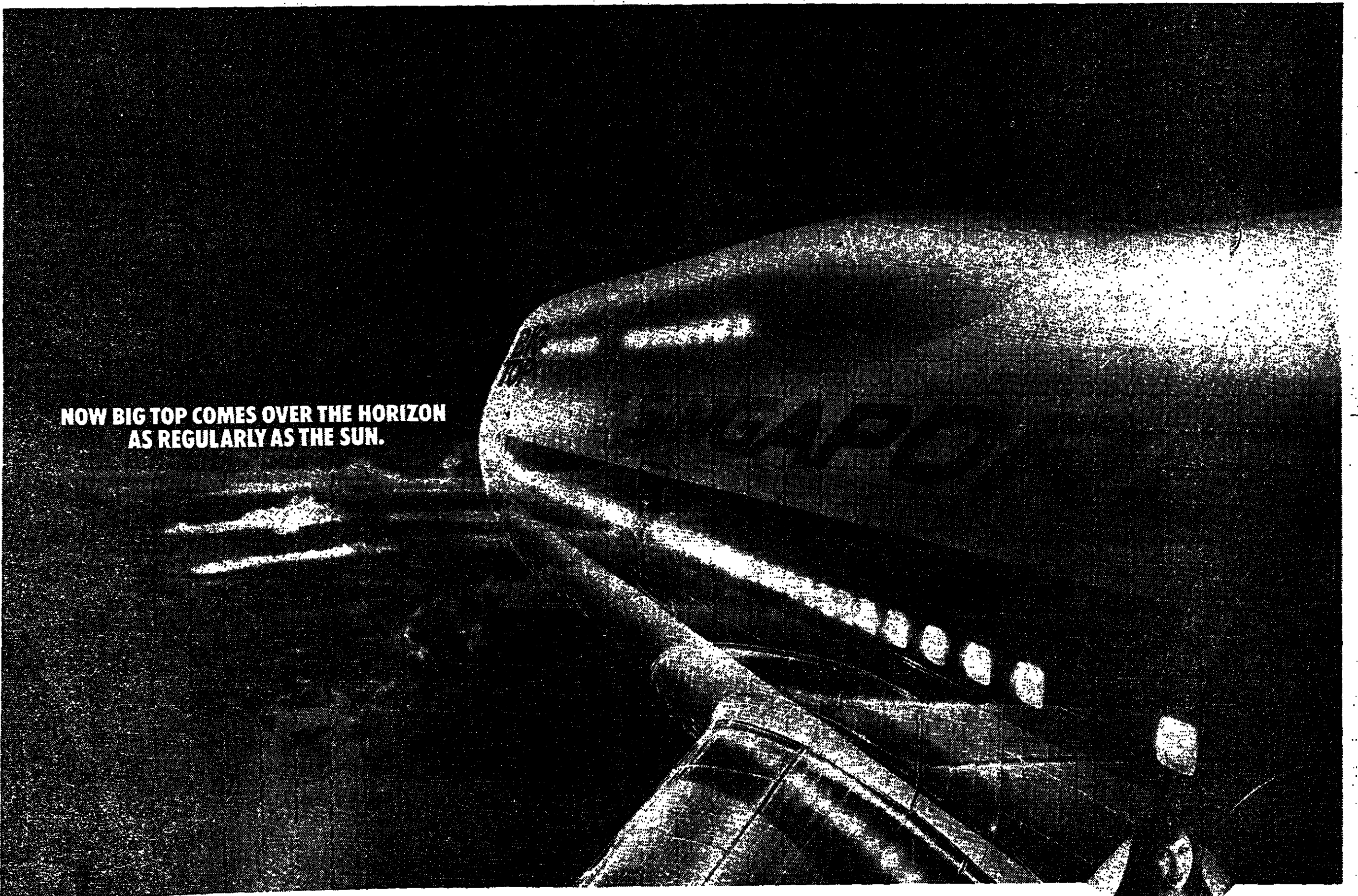
General Eugenio Vides Casanova, the Defence Minister, is accused of personally directing a cover-up of the murder of four American nuns in 1980.

Señor D'Aubuisson and General Casanova have both denied the charges. Señor Alvaro Magaña, the country's provisional President, said at the weekend that he had no evidence that Señor D'Aubuisson was continuing to direct the death squads.

The officer responsible for providing this damning information has served at the highest level of the Salvadorean security police. He has not been named because of fear of reprisal.

The reason why he had decided to speak out was because he feared that "uncontrollable violence" would consume El Salvador if Señor D'Aubuisson - whom he described as an "anarchic psychopath" - was elected President.

NOW BIG TOP COMES OVER THE HORIZON AS REGULARLY AS THE SUN.



SIA, the only airline flying Stretched Upper Deck 747s from Heathrow to Singapore and Australia, will now be operating BIG TOP every single day of the week. Inside, it has an upstairs deck which is twice the size of a normal 747s. And which has been designed as a single cabin to

accommodate the Business Class.

On this private floor, you have your own bar service, movie facilities and galley. The seats are as wide and as comfortable as you'd expect and set only two abreast. Giving you the choice of sitting by a window or the aisle.

Downstairs, the First Class cabin is one of the most spacious in the world. All the seats are fully reclining Snoozzzers.

Economy Class, too, has its share of extra room, with more space to stretch out between the specially contoured seats.

In fact, because of its unique interior

design, BIG TOP has more of just about everything.

More room, more movie areas, more galleys. And more gentle hostesses to give you the kind of inflight service other airlines talk about. And most people dream about.

SINGAPORE AIRLINES

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Lloyds Bank

Perfect launch of Ariane boosts challenge to space shuttle

Paris (Reuters) - The European Space Agency Ariane rocket reaffirmed its claim as a serious contender in the booming commercial space market yesterday when perfect launch put the world's biggest civilian telecommunications satellite into orbit.

The 137th rocket blasted off from its launch pad in the French Guiana jungle on schedule at 00.50 GMT, and afterwards a jubilant agency official at the tracking station at Evry, near Paris, said: "Superb. The best ever launch. No breaks, no incidents, the count-down was perfect."

About 16 minutes after lift-off the 4,100lb Intelsat V/F8 orbiter, capable of handling 12,000 simultaneous telephone calls and two colour television channels, separated from the rocket. It will be pushed into a fixed orbit 115 miles above the earth over the next few days.

The launch was the eighth in the Ariane series, and followed last October's successful launch of another V-series orbiter for the Washington-based International Satellite Telecommunications Organization.

Yesterday's launch delighted European Space Agency officials because they were able to use the first of three available "windows" in space, unlike last October, when a technical hitch delayed attempts to hit the first

slot. A "window" represents the optimum chance for the launcher to put the satellite in the correct position for its orbit.

Ariane's success comes soon after the failure of the two satellites launched by the last US space shuttle mission last month.

Mr Daniel Muijier, the deputy technical director of the Ariane launch programme, said: "Now it has become a routine for us. We have acquired the industrial technique."

A spokesman for Airspace, the commercial organization set up to market Ariane as a commercial launcher, on behalf of the 11-nation European Space Agency, said they now had a firm order book worth 6.1 billion francs (£508m).

"This represents 27 satellites for 14 different clients, and 40 per cent of them are outside Europe. We also have reservations for 18 satellites up to 1999-1989," the spokesman added.

Ariane's next launch will be in May, when it will put up the Spacenet civil telecommunications satellite for a private customer.

In July a more powerful Ariane III rocket will put two satellites into orbit at once, both for European customers.

Leading article, page 15

Opposition pulls out of Bangladesh elections

Dhaka (Reuters) - Opposition attempts to disrupt rural elections called by the Bangladesh military Government gathered momentum yesterday when election authorities announced the withdrawal of 499 candidates.

The two main alliances of opposition parties announced at the weekend that elections would be held "over our dead bodies" and declared that March 24, the proposed date for the polls, would be "black day".

The alliances said the number of withdrawals would have been much bigger if candidates had not been prevented from taking back their papers. They said that in many centres guards refused to let candidates enter election offices.

The opposition, headed by

Shaikh Hasina Wazed and Begum Khaleda Zia, have called for a boycott of the rural elections, saying they would create a new power base for the military ruler, President Hosain Muhammad Ershad.

They said the elections were designed to delay a transition to democracy and frustrate other opposition demands, including the holding of parliamentary elections before the rural polls.

Leader held: Police have arrested Mr Rafiqul Islam, a leader of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and its publicity secretary (AFP report).

Another two prominent alliance politicians are reported to have been held: Shah Azizur Rahman of the BNP and Mr Abdul Mannan of the Awami League.

Revolution under the American lash



Peasant progress: Cooperative agrarian reform is the cornerstone of the Sandinista policy to rebuild the country.

Marxist recipe for economic recovery

In the second of two articles on Nicaragua, Alan Tomlinson in Managua examines the precarious state of the economy.

"I see discontent everywhere," says Comandante of the Revolution Jaime Wheelock, Nicaragua's Minister for Agrarian Reform, whose task of transforming the countryside lies at the very heart of the Sandinista revolution.

After the insurrection which toppled the Somoza regime in 1979, the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) found an alarming situation. Small farms of less than 17 acres accounted for 40 per cent of all properties but only two per cent of the land, while larger estates of more than 850 acres accounted for just two per cent of properties yet occupied 47 per cent of the land.

Some of the worst social consequences have been partly alleviated: a 12 per cent mortality rate has been reduced to nine per cent, and 60 per cent illiteracy (68 per cent in the countryside) has been slashed to 12 per cent.

As well as the ravages of an earthquake and a war, the Sandinistas inherited a shattered economy utterly dependent on foreign capital, a \$1.6 billion (£1.1 billion) external debt requiring interest payments in excess of total export earnings, and a flight of capital to Miami which left only \$3.5m in reserves.

"It is difficult to be content in a country that has been destroyed," says Comandante Wheelock. "We have had two national disasters and all within the context of an international economic crisis and aggression from no less a power than the United States."

"But it is one thing to be discontented and another to be against the revolution. The people are aware of what is going on. They understand and they know that we will solve the problems."

US hostility has not only cost Nicaragua American aid and a great deal of international credit, but has unleashed upon the country an armed counter-revolution, the main target of which has been the 3,500 farming cooperatives set up since the revolution. Of 473 cooperatives killed by the "Contras" last year, 75 per cent were from the cooperatives.

Export earnings last year of \$400m were dwarfed by an import bill roughly twice as large.

Agrarian reform is the cornerstone not just of any hopes that Nicaragua has of emerging from economic catastrophe but also of the Sandinistas' hopes of maintaining grass roots support among peasants and workers.

Confiscated land has been redistributed as state farms, and also as private cooperatives and individual plots served centrally with machinery, technical advice and irrigation projects. But land ownership for the peasants has brought its own headaches, reducing the seasonally-unemployed workforce which traditionally harvested the dollar-earning coffee and cotton crops.

Conscription of up to 40,000 peasants into the militias to fight the contras has exacerbated the problem. Estimates put the lost harvest at between 20 and 40 per cent.

"At the centre of our agricultural strategy is irrigation," says Comandante Wheelock. "With 40,000 hectares (98,000 acres) of our flat lands irrigated and year-round

planting of maize for domestic consumption alongside cotton for export we can feed the country."

This year Nicaragua will invest \$300m in agriculture, more than any other country in the region. But last December two of its immediate neighbours, plus Colombia and Mexico, virtually ceased doing business with the Sandinistas after they failed to stump up a single dollar to settle their biennial accounts.

The country lives a precarious hand-to-mouth existence. Oil industry sources say stocks of lubricants may run out within weeks, bringing the nation to a standstill.

When a textile plant ground to a halt through lack of foreign exchange to replace worn fibre cogs, an imaginative worker made some by melting down plastic drainpipes. But when an engineer, responding to the same national campaign to encourage innovation, kept an aircraft in service by cannibalizing whatever was to hand the plane crashed, killing a senior government official and 14 others on board.

Concluded

Costa Rica takes hard line on Nicaragua

From Martha Honey
San José, Costa Rica

Despite an official policy of neutrality, Costa Rica is yielding to pressure from conservative government officials and the US to take a hard line against neighbouring Nicaragua and to ease restrictions on anti-Sandinista guerrilla activities.

A Nicaraguan mortar attack inside Costa Rica two weeks ago, has given an excuse for the authorities to whip up anti-Nicaraguan sentiments and to remove an official who had been restricting the activities of Arde (Democratic Revolutionary Alliance).

Over the past week officials have turned a blind eye to the presence in San José of two top Arde commanders, Edén Pastora and Fernando "El Negro" Chamorro - both of whom were previously expelled from Costa Rica because of guerrilla activities.

The Government announced over the weekend that Señor Chamorro had been arrested at a local airport and deported to Panama. But an Arde spokesman told the press that Señor Chamorro had not been expelled and was instead meeting Señor Pastora "in the mountains of southern Nicaragua" - a euphemism Arde often uses to indicate that its leaders are really inside Costa Rica.

The dismissed official, Colonel Rigoberto Badilla, director-general of the rural guard, has said that unless he is reinstated he will release compromising documents linking other officials to Arde.

Costa Rica has also announced for the first time it is seeking anti-tank rocket launchers, mortars and rifles.

Prisoners of conscience



E Germany: Armin Phillip

By Caroline Moorhead

When Armin Phillip, a 27-year-old worker in a Christian hostel, received his final summons to report for military service he sent back a card to the military authorities with the words "Create peace without weapons".

Phillip is a pacifist belonging to an unofficial peace movement in the GDR.

In November 1982 Phillip was arrested. Before the military authorities he declared that he refused to do his military service. While some provision exists under GDR law for those who object "for religious or similar reasons" to armed military service, all alternative work in "construction units" has to be carried out within the country's military and defence system. Those who refuse to join these units are sent to prison.



Herr Phillip

Zia sacks three senior Cabinet ministers

From Hasan Akhtar, Islamabad

President Zia ul-Haq of Pakistan dropped three of his Cabinet ministers from the Government on Sunday and left their vacancies unfilled.

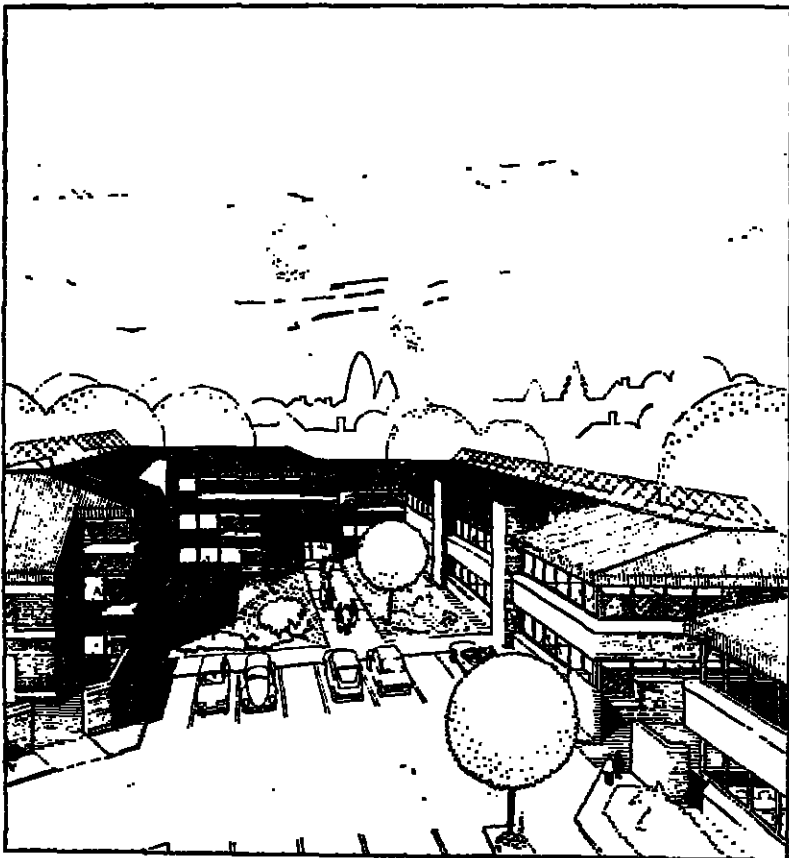
General Zia had removed two of his most senior army colleagues on Saturday and replaced them with two others who could be regarded as closer to him since he seized power in July, 1977.

The three dismissed ministers are retired Major-General Rao Farman Ali, the Petroleum Minister, Mr Nawab Abbasi, of

the former Bahawalpur state, Religious Affairs Minister, and Dr Naseeruddin Jozzai, the Health Minister. Their removal was not explained in a short statement, which said that General Zia had reshuffled his cabinet.

Chinese visit: President Li Xiannian of China arrived here today for a four-day state visit that may herald new diplomatic initiatives against the Soviet presence in Afghanistan and Vietnam's occupation of Cambodia (AP reports).

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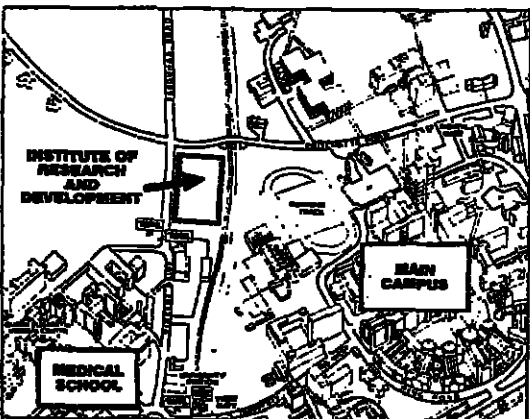
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هكذا من الأصل

TRUE OR FALSE?

1. DOVER IS BRITAIN'S BUSIEST PORT
True ☐ False ☐

2. HEATHROW, GATWICK, STANSTED
DON'T COST THE BRITISH TAXPAYER
A PENNY. True ☐ False ☐

3. HEATHROW HANDLES MORE
INTERNATIONAL PASSENGERS THAN
ANY OTHER AIRPORT. True ☐ False ☐

4. LOS ANGELES IS THE WORLD'S
BUSIEST INTERNATIONAL HELIPORT
True ☐ False ☐

5. HEATHROW IS THIS COUNTRY'S
LARGEST RETAILER OF PERFUME.
True ☐ False ☐

6. THE WORLD'S 5TH LARGEST INTER-
NATIONAL AIRPORT IS GATWICK.
True ☐ False ☐

7. ALL NATIONALISED
INDUSTRIES RUN AT
THE PUBLIC'S EXPENSE.
True ☐ False ☐

Take a couple of minutes and complete this questionnaire.

Then check the answers at the bottom of the page.

If you learn something about us in the process, these questions have served their purpose.

But we'll be flabbergasted if you answer all seven correctly.

Not, we hasten to add, because we imagine you to be stupid.

But because we're not the sort of nationalised industry you're likely to read about in the papers.

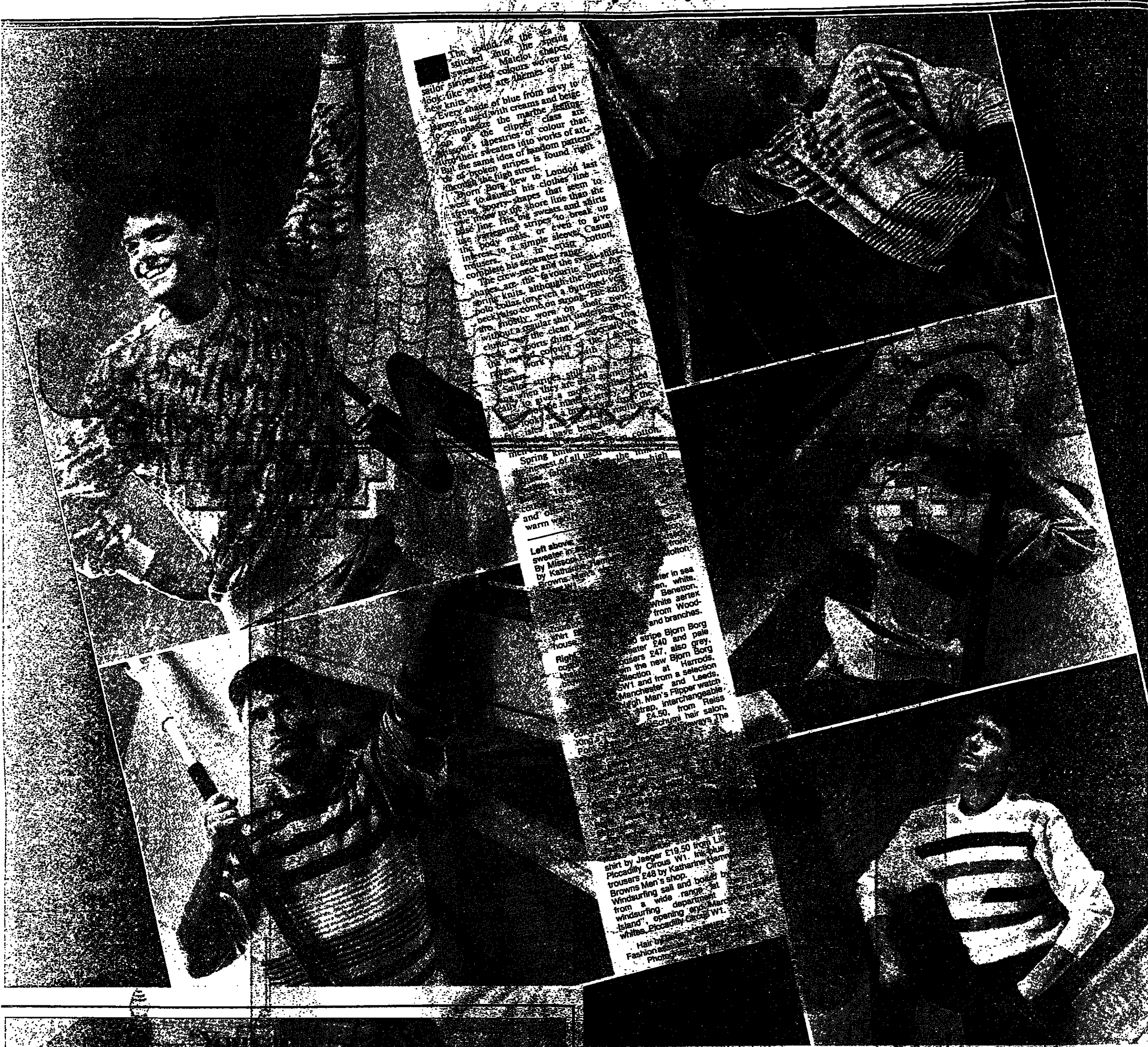
We're not plagued by labour relations problems. We don't make a loss.

And we don't go to the government cap in hand for some money every time we have to fork out for something like a new terminal.

In fact, we don't cost you a penny.
How many nationalised industries can say that?

British
Airports

MEN'S FASHION by Suzy Menkes



The solid of the spring
studies into the shapes
of the season. The
sailor stripes are themes of the
look like waves are
Every shade of blue from navy to
light blue is used with creams and beige
to emphasise the marine feeling.
The stripes are of colour that
echoes the stripes of the sea.
But the same idea is found right
through the high street.
The new line to London last
week to launch his clothes line
strong, sporty shapes that seem to
come from the shore and up
the line. His big sweaters and shirts
use horizontal stripes to give
the body mass, or even to give
interest to a simple sleeve. Cotton
trousers, cut in a simple
completing his separates range.
The crew-neck and the open-collared
shirts are the favourite lines for
spring. Knives, although a bygone
style, also come on again. The
neck also comes on again. The
who, mostly, wear on their men
without a regular shirt. The
clutter of the clean, occasionally
of sports shirts. The
the most part, with
features.
Sailor stripes still have a
and when they are used, they
to give a more casual feel
to the more formal clothes.
The look is a mix of
styles that have been
from the past and the
present.
Spring knits are the
most of all used. The
knits are in a variety of
styles and colours.
and a
warm

Left above:
sweater by
By Miesco, from
by Katharine
Browns Men's
shop.

Right above:
sweater by
By Miesco, from
by Katharine
Browns Men's
shop.

Below:
sweater by
By Miesco, from
by Katharine
Browns Men's
shop.

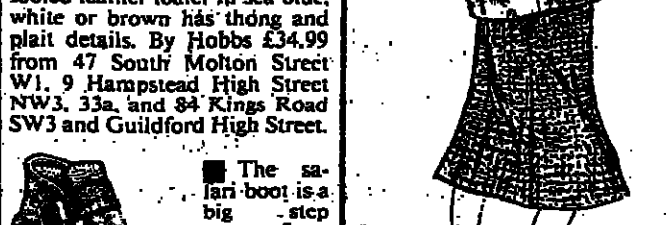
shirt by Jaeger £19.50 from Lill
Piccadilly Circus W1. Knives
trousers £40 by Katharine
Browns Men's shop.
Windsurfing sail and boat
from a wide range of
windsurfing department
from a wide range of
windsurfing department
from a wide range of
windsurfing department



On the sand, the sand shoes for summer.
On the sand, the sand shoes for summer.
On the sand, the sand shoes for summer.
On the sand, the sand shoes for summer.



Angela Gore
to the upper. This
leather shoe.



tooled leather loafer in sea blue,
white or brown has thong and
detail details. By Hobbs £34.99
from 47 South Molton Street
W1, 9 Hampstead High Street
NW3, 33a and 84 Kings Road
SW3 and Guildford High Street.



The new
classic slip-
on shoe is
the loafer
with the
attention.
This
leather loafer with slatted over-
tongue and cross strap detail in
navy or tan £39.99 from Bertie,
48 South Molton Street and
branches.

A NEW TAPESTRY FOOTSTOOL



The Royal School of Needlework have designed this beautiful tapestry especially to go with the handsome mahogany footstool, and the two are offered together as a complete kit for only £24.95, which is excellent value. The pattern is a circle of honeysuckle, brass roses and ivy entwined on a dark chocolate-brown background. It is worked in half-cross stitch and printed on a single thread canvas, 14 holes to the inch, in the full eleven colours - pomegranate blue, Khaki, sand, beach green, sage green, pale mauve, white, faded rose pink, raspberries, peacock green and bitter chocolate.

The footstool itself is made of solid mahogany and has a removable calico-covered pad. The kit also contains all the required tools from the famous Appliqueurs range, needle and full instructions. All for only £24.95, post-free. USE FREPOST TO ORDER - no stamp required.

Elmick, 21-23 Vantage Gate, London W8 4AA. Registered No. 228 6455.
Please allow 28 days for delivery. Money back if kit returned unused within 14 days.

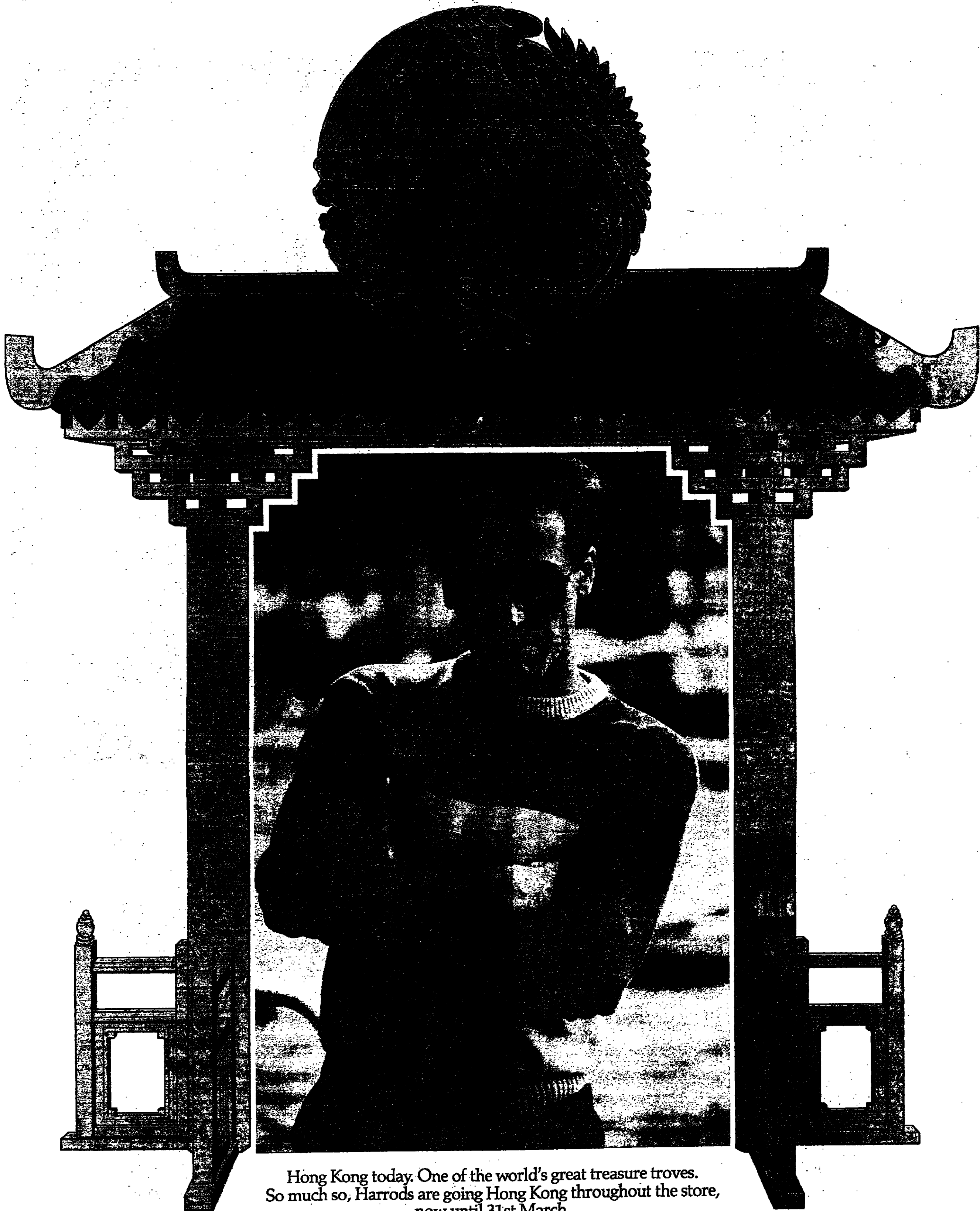
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I enclose a cheque/PO made out to Elmick for £..... (TOTAL)
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Address
Tel. No.

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Illustrations: MICHAEL DAVIDSON

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SPECTRUM

THE KINNOCK STORY

Even before it began, it was obvious that Kinnock would win the battle for Foot's succession. Peter

Gillman explains how the young, inexperienced contender became everyone's favourite with a series of union and constituency victories

Clearing the lines of leadership

On the eve of the 1983 general election, Roy Hattersley thought he was going to be the next leader of the Labour Party. He calculated that in the forthcoming leadership election, the left's vote would be split between Kinnock and Benn. Kinnock would be eliminated, and he would win the run-off. But then he heard Benn had lost in Bristol East - and knew that his hopes had gone.

Kinnock's supporters assert today that he would have beaten Hattersley, Benn or no Benn. Before the general election, some were not so sure. A group of left-wing leaders was already considering what to do if Benn survived in Bristol. They had in mind a deal: if Benn stood down against Kinnock, they would back him for the deputy.

Kinnock himself was scarcely confident of victory. On general election day, one of his constituency workers, Gwyn Evans, learned that a local bookie was offering 33-1 against Kinnock becoming Labour leader. He was on the point of drawing out his life-savings of £1,000 when Kinnock warned him sternly against placing the bet. Evans now rues accepting that advice. "You only get a chance like that once in a lifetime," he says.

If in retrospect Kinnock's election victory seems a formality, those involved say that it did not seem so at the time. That is hard to credit when the margin - 71 per cent to 19 per cent - was so resounding. But it does appear that all who took part underestimated Kinnock's strengths - including Kinnock himself.

Some cynical Labour members see

Kinnock's triumph as the culmination of a scheming ambition that was conceived, so one MP remarked, "in his mother's womb". But while Kinnock admits he was ambitious - "holy I am not" - he most emphatically denies any "long-term contrivance".

True, there has at times been an intriguing ambiguity about Kinnock's actions, with his short-term aims often proving to suit more distant goals. But that can equally demonstrate the sureness of his political instincts; he has also been blessed with considerable luck. And although he also received the eager support of Michael Foot, that has at times been a mixed blessing - and was not always quite what it seemed.

The first advancement Foot provided was in 1974, when as Secretary of State for Employment he appointed Kinnock his PPS. This, however, was an act of patronage rather than of rescue. Kinnock had been asked to become PPS to Ted Short, deputy leader of the Labour Party. Having no wish to do so, Kinnock told Short he had already agreed to work for Foot - and then persuaded Foot to take him on. Foot readily conceded that Kinnock was not ideal for the post. The job, he explains, "is best done by people prepared to efface themselves, and nobody has ever accused Neil of that".

Yet Kinnock did have more substantial ambitions at that time. He complained to Wilson, then Prime Minister, of the quality of a minister in the Welsh office. When Wilson told him "there's nobody else", a miffed Kinnock replied: "Thank you very

much". However, when Jim Callaghan offered him junior posts - first in the Department of Industry, later in Prices and Consumer Protection - he turned them down.

Kinnock explained later that his opposition to Callaghan was "so fundamental, particularly over limits on public expenditure and plans for devolution in Wales, that it would have been 'counterfeit' to accept. His wife Glenys was no less hostile to Callaghan, warning Kinnock: "He's trying to shut you up".

How Kinnock set the seal on his loyalty

Rejecting those offers has, of course, exposed Kinnock to the criticism that he lacks administrative experience. His supporters - most notably Denis Healey - now compare him with Kennedy in that respect; Kinnock's favourite analogy is Tito.

Yet there were important compensations. Since becoming MP, Kinnock had almost invariably accepted invitations to speak at local party meetings or to teach at trade union schools. Instead of toiling unseen in Whitehall, he remained free to do so. That work among Labour's grassroots, plus his rousing speeches at annual conferences, won Kinnock a seat on Labour's National Executive Committee in 1978.

In 1979, following Labour's election defeat, Foot persuaded Callaghan to appoint Kinnock education spokesman. In the Commons, Kinnock performed ably enough. But 1979 also saw the

start of Labour's traumas, fatal to its chances in the 1983 general election. From then Kinnock was to emerge as Labour's leader.

Kinnock was among those who persuaded Foot to run as leader in 1980 because he was the only candidate who could beat Denis Healey. But Foot still favoured Shore as his successor. Kinnock, he says, was "hardly in the running".

Foot changed his mind during the bitter internal struggles that racked the party during the next two years.

Kinnock backed him consistently in his battles with Benn on the NEC and set the seal on his loyalty when he informed Foot that the Bennites were holding caucus meetings beforehand. The nadir of Foot's relations with Benn was reached when Foot confronted Benn with the charge; later Foot wearily asked if it might not be possible that something he had to say during an NEC meeting could influence one of Benn's decisions.

By now, a fissure had opened on the left, with a group cohering around Kinnock that became known as the "soft left". The schism was formalized during the deputy leadership contest in November, 1981, when Kinnock and his colleagues abstained from voting, costing Benn the prize. Afterwards Kinnock continued to back Foot through thick and thin, even in his opposition to the Bermondsey candidate, Peter Tatchell, although privately he felt Foot had gone too far.

That brought a rebuke from Glenys, who told him that she could understand him backing Foot out of loyalty, but he shouldn't justify his action in terms of higher moral principles. By then Foot had concluded that Kinnock, not Shore, should be his successor. Kinnock, he says, "played a leading part in attempting to stop the party splitting". And his seat on the NEC - evidence of a constituency power base, which Shore lacked - was "an absolutely major factor".

Meanwhile, with the defections to the SDP, Labour's centre of gravity had shifted in Kinnock's favour. And there on the right still in the party were taking a new view of Kinnock. The former MP, Philip Whitehead, says it was clear by then that he was "not just an easy-going Welsh boy" but someone "with steel in his character".

As his supporters tell it, it was in November, 1982, that Kinnock decided to make his eventual bid for the leadership. Kinnock had asked Foot for promotion from his education post several months before, but when Foot asked his employment spokesman, Eric Varley, to step down in Kinnock's favour, he refused to budge. Kinnock was enraged by Varley's intransigence, and swore that he would "go for broke". But he has also confessed that he thought then Hattersley would win.

Elsewhere, however, preparations for his victory were being unwittingly laid. Following boundary changes, there had been anxious manoeuvring in Bristol for the solitary safe seat, Bristol South. The contenders were Labour's chief whip, Michael Cocks, and Tony Benn. Cocks was fortunate in having assistance from the maverick right-wing MP John Gillingham, adept at advising his friends how to maximize their support on Labour selection committees. It was clear by the end of the year that Cocks would win.

The signs favouring Kinnock were now sufficiently strong for other informed observers to take note. The American Embassy concluded it was time it got to know Kinnock, and he dined with the deputy chief of mission, Ed Sreator, at his official residence, Wychwood, in Kensington. Kinnock also met the head of the embassy's political and military department, Dick McCormack. The Americans concluded that Kinnock was a bright, shrewd politician with a high learning curve, who was definitely "educable" about the constraints he would face in office.

In 1983, however, as a general election loomed, there were two attempts to pre-empt the leadership contest that would follow. The first came in February, when there were headlines of a plot to install Healey in Foot's place. MPs on the right now aver that the move was taken more seriously by the press than by the party itself.

Three months later, however, there was a second move to replace Foot, this time from the left, that has so far

gone unreported. It came just as the general election was announced, when the Shadow Cabinet, NEC, and trade unions held an emergency conference at the General and Municipal Workers' college at Long Ditton in Surrey on May 6-7.

The move was proposed by Clive Jenkins, who suggested that Labour should "do a Hawke" and follow the example of the Australian Labour Party, which had won a general election by switching its leader. The man to replace Foot was Kinnock.

Jenkins' proposal was considered in some secrecy by a group of union leaders on the left of the party, who included Moss Evans (TGWU), Bill Keys (SOGAT '82), Alan Sapper (ACTAT), Ray Buckton (ASLEF), Rodney Bickerstaffe (NUPE), Jimmy Knapp (NUR), and Ken Cameron (FBU). Among those emphatically not consulted were Bill Sirs of the ISTC and Terry Duffy of the AUEW who, the others felt, would have been adamantly opposed to the scheme, and might have leaked it to the press. News of it did reach Kinnock, but not Foot.

His appearance and his manner impressed

The discussion proved shortlived: "the party had taken its decision", one general secretary explains, and to change leaders at that stage would have been constitutionally very awkward. Nor could much personal enthusiasm for "the sharp removal" be found. But the corollary of the discussion proved equally significant. "People were beginning to exercise their minds on what to do afterwards - and that's where it all began to come together for Neil."

But that conclusion carried further implications. What would happen if Benn survived in Bristol? As a second general secretary explains, some members of the group felt Benn "might just do it" - and if he then ran for the leadership, a split in the left's vote could let Hattersley through. They considered backing Benn for deputy if he would stand down from the leadership. Although this was "all hypothetical", there was "some relief" when the electors of Bristol rendered such calculations superfluous.

Both Kinnock and his campaign team now assert that he would have won a three-cornered contest - and a telling point in their favour is the extent in which Kinnock had moved into Hattersley's own territory on the centre-right with his solid political groundwork over the years.

A typical union convert was Bill Whalley of USDAW, swayed by Kinnock's performance at his union's annual conference in 1982. "He most certainly did impress our conference, not only by the contribution he made but also by his appearance and general manner."

Meanwhile even Hattersley's own supporters had reservations about him. His power base supposedly lay in the gathering of right-wing MPs and trade unionists known as the "St Ermin's group". But some felt he had "minus marks" against him - cited graphically by the electricians' leader Frank Chappell, who roundly declared that Hattersley had "no balls".

On general election night, Kinnock won further support for his televised composure in the face of defeat, confirming the grateful Labour view that there was an able media performer.

As the leadership contest unfolded, Kinnock won a series of victories in the constituencies and in the unions, where every member's ballot bar one went his way. Hattersley had most support among MPs, but Kinnock's team ensured his majority there by persuading waverers to back a winning cause.

Although Kinnock's supporters now profess relief at the size of his victory, it cannot have come as a total surprise. For they had the further advantage over Hattersley of a computer, which was programmed to predict who would win. It was asked this question many times, one campaigner recalls. "And every time it answered: Neil."

TOMORROW:

The leadership honeymoon

moreover... Miles Kington

Q & A on GCHQ

How good are you at following and interpreting news headlines? When Tony Benn is returned to a parliamentary seat with a reduced majority and a reduced share of the poll, are you puzzled when it is hailed as a great Labour victory and the start of the world revolution? Or can you take it in your stride?

Here is an exercise based on the last week's news to see how good you are.

Easy:

1. Last Tuesday's day of action was greeted as "a triumph" and also as "a disaster". The TUC is responsible for one statement and the Government for the other. But which said which?

2. "They fought like animals. It was utterly sickening." Was this (a) English soccer supporters in Paris (b) Cheltenham GCHQ workers rushing for their £1,000 (c) Derek Jameson's lawyers looking for their fees?

Moderate:

1. Tony Benn will not be moving to Cheltenham from Bristol. Why? (a) The tea merchants in Bristol are that much better (b) It is too far from the nearest BBC studio (c) He doesn't live in Bristol: he lives in London W11.

2. How much do you think the *News of the World* is paying Derek Jameson for his exclusive story?

3. If you were a worker at Cheltenham GCHQ, what would there be to stop you from taking your £1,000, then resigning and getting another job? (a) Decent loyalty (b) The Official Secrets Act (c) Your superior in Moscow.

4. What is very unusual about the first Test between England and Pakistan? (a) It is the first ever to be played on the same day that England arrived in the host country (b) It is the first ever to be played on an aircraft in transit from New Zealand (c) It is the first ever to be played under Islamic law.

5. Is Caspar Weinberger (a) A fruity young German wine (b) A political party that came eleven at Cheltenham (c) That nice Dutchman we met last year in Mallorca, you remember.

Harder:

1. When the England cricket team's plane was held up in Australia with engine failure, how did Bob Willis react? (a) He sent home to England for a substitute engine to be rushed out (b) He blamed it on the condition of the ground (c) He said that any aircraft could go through an out-of-form period. It was just one of those things. It was sheer bad luck and certainly nobody on the English side was to blame.

2. If Derek Jameson had won his case and been vindicated as a civilized, literary type, would he have been sued by the *News of the World* on the grounds that he had been an unsuitable editor?

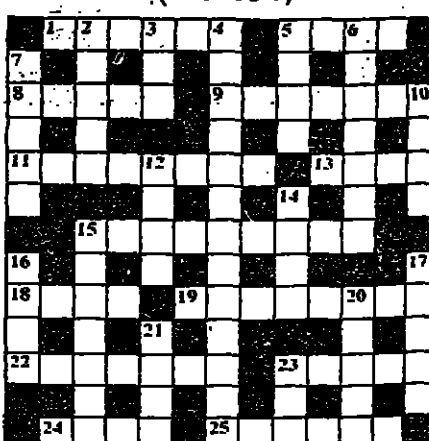
Impossible:

1. Mrs Thatcher has made the trade unions popular overnight, previously thought impossible to achieve by her handling of Cheltenham. The police have made a similar bid for popularity by recommending laxer speed limits on motorways. Can you suggest ways in which popularity could be achieved by (a) Solicitors (b) Cheltenham Athletic (c) TV-am (d) Princess Michael of Kent?

2. Last week *The Times* promised a piece on "How Tony Benn Fought the Media and Won", to be printed the next day. The next day, however, *The Times* did not appear because of trade union action. Sketch a speech for Tony Benn in which he proves that this was a plot by the media owners.

3. If the GLC is abolished, will London (a) Stop being a nuclear-free zone (b) Be closed down as unprofitable (c) Sold off to private industry (d) Be given back to the Chinese by the Foreign Office?

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 284)



- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Sweet child (6) | 2 Red dye (5) |
| 3 Fourth Gospel (4) | 3 Make free (3) |
| 4 Yearned (5) | 4 Tierra del Fuego strait (6, 7) |
| 5 Perceptible to ear (7) | 5 Punch's wife (4) |
| 6 Passenger strap (8) | 6 Natural area (7) |
| 7 Celebrities (4) | 7 Muscle contractions (5) |
| 8 Yellow-crowned warbler (9) | 8 Jewish law scribe (4) |
| 9 Coarse Eastern spirit (4) | 9 Main part (4) |
| 10 Long traffic jam (5) | 10 Ship's time signal (4) |
| 11 Food constituent (7) | 11 Allure (7) |
| 12 Delight (5) | 12 Sloping floor (4) |
| 13 Snare (4) | 13 Small boat (5) |
| 14 Animal offspring (6) | 14 Entertain (5) |
| 15 Shed tears (4) | 15 Incision (3) |

SOLUTION TO No 283
ACROSS: 1 Abracadabra 9 Impound 10 Rummy 11 Era 13 Coda 16 Tape 17 Salome 18 Mash 20 Mean 21 Tundra 22 Pear 23 Plot 25 Mts 28 Cause 29 Plastic 30 Gatecrasher
DOWN: 2 Biped 3 Ague 4 Aide 5 Aura 6 Rummage 7 Circumference 8 Cybernetics 12 Remedy 14 Ash 15 Clouds 19 Spatula 20 Map 24 Lute 25 Mete 26 Spout 27 Jaws

Why the new Police Bill won't help the Old Bill

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The GLC is committed to fighting crime in London. And to improving the service given to Londoners by their police force.

But we believe that the Police Bill, now before parliament, will not help these aims.

Worse, that it will cause more friction and create a wider rift between the Metropolitan Police and the people it serves.

For the Bill gives the police additional powers to use in certain circumstances. Powers to stop, search and detain which could be open to abuse.

We consider that the additional powers sought in the Police Bill are unnecessary. More important, we believe they will not help the police in their vital job of fighting crime in London. For the extra powers will almost certainly lead to increased conflict between Londoners and their police force.

The Police Bill must be opposed. It must not become law. Please, if you are concerned, write to your MP at the House of Commons, and send the coupon to us to get more information.

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THE ARTS

Galleries

Finding a place in the world

Peter Potworowski
Bloomsbury Galleries 1 and 2

Gabriel Glikman
Wylma Wayne Fine Art

Neil Welliver
Marlborough Fine Art

The idea of exile, especially some kind of political exile, is a sure sympathy-trap. Somehow concern over the artist's plight and opposition to whatever drove him from his homeland tend to spill over into required approval of his work, as though to point out its shortcomings is somehow to break faith with all that is liberal and good and decent. Unfortunately, the nicest chaps, with their hearts in the right places, are not necessarily the best artists, and an uncomfortable awareness of this leads sooner or later to a secondary mistrust, in which artists who fall awkwardly between two national stools are tacitly allowed to stay there.

To complicate matters, this last mistrust can happen even to very good artists whose only drawback is that they just do not fit in. Like Peter Potworowski, whose work is being given a well-deserved and long-overdue retrospective at the Bloomsbury Galleries 1 and 2 of the University of London Institute of Education for, alas, a bare three weeks, until March 13, it is possible that the name rings a few distant bells for people whose memories of British painting go back to the 1940s and 1950s, since that is the period when he was exhibiting most frequently in this country as a Polish artist in Britain or, quite simply, as a British artist.

Even then, he was something of an odd bird. Looking at the richly coloured, powerfully formalized landscapes from the 1930s in this show, you can see immediately why they date from, and make all kinds of connections. But it would be difficult to assign them to any specific national school or group. Which is understandable when you consider that Potworowski was born in Warsaw in 1898, left for Paris in 1924 with a group of young Polish artists eager to steep themselves in Impressionism on the spot, but instead discovered Les all by himself, went back to Poland in 1930 and had a highly successful career there until the



Neil Welliver's *Storm's End and Sunlight*: reassuringly beautiful and romantic rather than disturbingly modernist

German invasion drove him first to Sweden, then to Britain, where he remained until going back to Poland and a new triumph in 1958, for the last four years of his life.

Such a complicated and peripatetic existence (which leaves out shorter periods in Germany, Italy and Spain) indicates just why he is difficult to pigeonhole. Or rather why nobody has tried very seriously in the last few years to find out where he fits in, except the Poles, who correctly regard him as a modern master.

He would be difficult to pigeonhole anyway because of his extreme individuality of vision: shown any one of his better paintings - and there are two large halls full of them - you would be aware immediately of seeing a major talent at work, and really hard put to it to guess who it might be. Except for a handful of vibrantly coloured, near-abstracts which date from after his return to Poland, all the works here come from his British years, and most of them take the bare bones of a landscape or an interior to

clothe them in a non-representational coat of many colours.

There are, it is true, occasional works which suggest friendly relations with St Ives, and one, *The Black Boat* of 1957, even seems to indicate that he may have studied the work of the St Ives group's spiritual godfather Alfred Wallis. Yet the taste for rich Post-Impressionist colouring points towards France, the occasional eruption of collage reminds us of Potworowski's early acquaintance with the classic Cubists, and the tendency of his landscapes to break out in brilliant diamonds and triangles of colour is entirely his own.

Most impressive of all, though, is the way the show hangs together: the diverse influences and affinities are all fused into something very personal and unmistakable, whether Potworowski is painting *Battersea Park* or a *Ghetto in Warsaw*, a pair of girls making music or ducks in a French village street, or indeed a complete abstract like *Horizontal Elements* of 1958.

If his initial situation in Britain led to some largely

irrelevant attention as one of our Free Polish allies fighting beside us, and the indeterminacy of his national status led just as irrelevantly to neglect, now seems like a good time to take a clear unprejudiced look at him and give him the place he deserves on artistic merit only.

The situation of Gabriel Glikman in relation to exile is rather different: in a sense he has reached only stage one, appearing before us in the flattering guise of a Russian non-conformist who chose freedom - and very recently at that, in 1980 at the age of 67. Glikman was trained as an architect, then a sculptor, and through the years had many major successes in the Soviet Union as a sculptor, with a lot of officially approved portrait busts and monuments to his credit.

His painting seems to have been something he did largely to please himself; it certainly did not please the authorities, and his only one-man show as a painter in Russia (1968) was closed after just three days. Maybe half the paintings at Wylma Wayne Fine Art (until

March 16) were brought with him out of Russia; the rest, mostly slightly caricatural portraits, have painted since.

The problem, once we have got over the apparent boldness of this informal handling of culture-heroes in the Soviet Union today, is to decide how good the work actually is. There are some immediately striking images, like the familiar portrait of Glikman's friend Rostropovich, which do not really transcend caricature, and there is often a coarseness of effect which seems involuntary, arising perhaps from sketchy technique. Easy to say that there is a real talent here, uncertainly channelled, and suggest that he is possibly no more as a painter than a sculptor who dabbles.

And yet, there are two splendid - and very painterly - landscapes, *Homage to the Moon* and *Der Krieg*, and the odd non-portrait painting, like *Abraham and Isaac*, shows a strong, and unconventional sense of composition and a real painter's feeling for the materials.

It would be interesting to know how he was painting - for surely he must have been - before 1960. Equally, it would be interesting to know how these paintings will strike us in a few years' time, when the topical issues have ceased to affect us one way or the other.

At least we know where we are with Neil Welliver, a stay-at-home artist as American as English muffins and French toast. He was born 54 years ago in Pennsylvania, where he studied and later (until last year, in fact) taught, and for some years he has lived and worked in Maine. He may have studied in the meantime with Josef Albers and be conversant with the intricacies of modern colour theory, but his pictures first strike one as super-realist landscapes, rendering the snowy slopes or sun-dappled woodland glades of Maine with an almost obsessive concern for detail.

The catalogue of the recent work currently on show at Marlborough Fine Art (until March 31) firmly insists that once he has taken in this impression, "the hoodwinked viewer receives the spine-jarring upper cut to the jaw from modernism and lands spread-eagled on the canvas". (Sounds like a rather unhelpful place to be in relation to a painting.)

Maybe yes, maybe no. Certainly no artistic innocent would know how to render the optical effect of falling snow quite so precisely, but the overall result is reassuringly beautiful and romantic rather than nerve-shatteringly modernist.

John Russell Taylor

Jane Alexander has been nominated for so many awards that she should be one of America's best-paid stars. She is not.

Joan Goodman talks to her about her latest film, *Testament* which opens in London this week

Out on the last frontier

If Oscar nominations or Tony Awards were represented monetarily in the United States, Jane Alexander would be one of the highest-paid actresses in the business. And that she is not. She has engaged her talent in some of the best projects to come out of the cinema, television and the theatre. Her films - *The Great White Hope*, *All the President's Men*, *Kramer vs. Kramer*, for all of which she received Oscar nominations - have been seen in Britain; so has some of her television work: *Eleanor and Franklin*, and its sequel, *and Playing for Time*. Most of her work, however, is on the New York stage or in regional theatre. She won a Best Actress Tony for the original stage production of *Great White Hope*.

"If I'm not on the stage once a year I get very nervous. It's my home," says Ms Alexander from her comfortable, river-view apartment on Manhattan's West Side before she leaves for the Roundabout Theatre, where she is performing in Harold Pinter's *Old Times* with Anthony Hopkins and Marsha Mason.

For her performance in the anti-nuclear war film *Testament*, which opens at the Plaza this week, she has received yet another Oscar nomination. "I think it's Shirley MacLaine's year," says Alexander candidly, "but I'm so happy to be nominated because the film hasn't been released in many cities and now it will probably get more attention."

In *Testament*, Alexander plays Carol Wetherly, the mother of three children. She is sorting out the usual family crises when a nuclear explosion occurs in northern California. It is one of the strengths of the film that the exact nature of the explosion is never described. We do not know if it is an enemy strike or an accident.

Alexander is an appropriate actress to play Carol Wetherly. She is an active member of Women's Action for Nuclear Disarmament, a group founded by Dr Helen Caldicott. "Five years ago I was having a recurring nightmare," says Alexander, "which curiously was *Testament*. We have four boys and we used to go on camping trips a lot when they were little. My nightmare was that we were coming out of the woods near where we lived in



Jane Alexander: nuclear fears

upstate New York after a three-day camping trip. When we reached the road it was filled with people moving north, walking and a few cars. I said, 'what's going on?' And they showed me a headline in *The New York Times* that said a 400-mile cloud of radiation is blanketing the North-East and the county where I lived was being evacuated.

"I had the nightmare over and over again for a year. It was causing me real problems. Then one day I was in Boston and I knew Helen Caldicott lived there and I called her up and told her I wanted to join this new women's organization. Once I got active, my nightmare disappeared. And when *Testament* came up, it was déjà vu. I'd already been there."

Curiously, the director, Lynne Littman, had been at college with Alexander. "We're not close. I had directed Lynn in a play at college but that was more than 20 years ago and I haven't seen her since. I didn't know what she was doing. [She was making award-winning documentaries.] She called me up out of the blue and said I've optioned a story by Carol Amen that was in *Ms* magazine. I said I know the story. I don't know your work but count me in."

Funding for the film came from the American Playhouse Television company, whose product regularly appears on the Public Broadcast Network in the US. Paramount Pictures picked it up for theatrical distribution. It ran into some resistance at the box office when the TV drama *The Day After* was shown.

Born and brought up in Boston, Alexander knew she wanted to be an actress by the time she was six. "It was a strong feeling. I loved to perform." She came by the ambition honestly. "My Dad, a surgeon, was involved with a group called the University Players in Falmouth, Massachusetts, which included Henry Fonda and Jimmy Stewart. My dad was Bart Quigley and he and Hank Fonda went to Omaha Central high school together. My dad's family comes from South Dakota and Nebraska. My great-grandfather came from Ireland to South Dakota and then my grand-

father grew up in North Platte, Nebraska, and he was Buffalo Bill's doctor.

"I became a western nut. I love the early West so when I was looking for a project that I could produce, I focused on *Calamity Jane*. I have been researching her life for the past four or five years; it's really fun. She was a marvellous woman who played all the roles a woman could play 100 years ago and many men's roles as well. She was a nurse, a mother, a wife, pony express rider, stage coach driver, scout for the army, a crack shot and more than a little outrageous. Not the image that has passed on to us in Doris Day or Jean Arthur."

Expansion into production is possible, Alexander says, because the four children that she and her second husband Ed Sherin, a director, share, are all grown-up. "They take care of me now and when I was making *Testament* they were a help. It was such a difficult film. There came a point while playing the scenes when I said I'm not going to get through this, I'm going to break down. There seemed no place to escape. Then one night at the dinner table, our youngest, Jon, said the reason he wanted to be a neuroscientist is that he wanted to find ways to neutralize atomic energy and also to find out where aggression comes from in human behaviour."

"And if you think about it, the last frontier is the brain. Kids these days have already accepted that there's going to be a nuclear accident. What they want our generation to do is stave it off, buy time until their generation makes the 'discoveries'."

"I found after that I had hope, like a thing with feathers, on my shoulders all the time."

© Joan Goodman, 1984

Television

Nothing was what it seemed to be in the field of contraception research, as *Panorama* (BBC 1) revealed it last night. For instance, the well-established increase in the incidence of cervical cancer among women who had had multiple sexual partners came under scrutiny by the programme's reporter, Margaret Jay. She asked a professor what "multiple" meant in this context. He replied that it meant more than one sexual partner, and could even mean one sexual partner if he had himself had multiple partners.

This gem of *Alice in Wonderland* logic was only one of the hoard of anomalies and contradictions which the programme revealed. Its overt purpose was to investigate the basis of last autumn's scare about the long-term effects of the contraceptive Pill. This followed the publication in *The Lancet* of findings by Professor Malcolm Pike and Professor Martin Vessey relating the use of the Pill to increased incidence of cancer of the breast and cervix.

Professor Vessey confessed himself surprised by the amount of attention his findings had received, and suggested that they themselves were not particularly significant but had been made to appear so by association with Professor Pike's discoveries. In turn, Professor Pike was questioned on the use of an "inaccurate" table in his report; he passed the buck defiantly.

No certainty was offered by the doctor given ultimate authority in the area, Dr Clifford Kaye, who presides over the largest survey of women who use the Pill. The facts provided by his 66,000 respondents could not substantiate findings from elsewhere, and after 20 years of widespread use of the Pill there seemed to be no clearer information available about its long-term effects.

However, the sample of young, unmarried women covered in a discussion group for the programme spoke with the flawless certainty of youth and ignorance after the carefully hedged bets of the experts. Margaret Jay very properly chose to set the use of the Pill in its social and moral context. She went on a fact-finding mission and found no facts. Instead of answers she succeeded in uncovering questions, which was, I suspect, the covert purpose of the programme.

We had boys in a sex education class arguing over who should have responsibility for preventing pregnancy. A girl from the discussion group said briskly: "I prefer to be in charge of my own body."

The report was fine so far as it went but indicated that there was much more ground to cover - not, perhaps, an appropriate preoccupation for a prime-time news programme. It made it clear that families are at present obliged to make a life-or-death decision about one of their members from a basis of contradictory or inadequate information. It suggested that children at present make the decision to begin their sexual lives under the impression that the choice of contraception is the most important issue to settle. Let us hope that other programme makers will now take the discussion further.

Celia Brayfield

Concerts

Violence and virtue

LPO/Solti
Festival Hall

In a concert where each work finds its composer leaping out from his own imaginings into the song and dance of the common people, Sir Georg Solti, of all conductors, can be relied on to whip up performances of raw and relentless physicality.

So it was with the London Philharmonic on Sunday. First came Prokofiev's "Classical" symphony, with its sinewy Gavotte flanked on both sides by a savage cut and thrust of rhythm. A fierce, insect-like clicking would be stabbed into disorder by sudden crescendos and decrescendos; flute curlicues would be tickled by gusts of windy string playing; and Solti himself would crouch as though ready to pounce.

Bartok's *Music for Strings, Percussion and Celeste* became a celebration of the multiplicity of human activity. The highly strung precision of each movement's making must have conveyed extraordinarily vivid

images to radio listeners. In the flesh, one saw double-bass players bending low to toss their highest notes to the celeste, piano, percussion, and pizzicato serving each other's nerve-endings, and the entire body of strings crouches like jockeys to ride their rhythms.

In Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony the audience was wrenched forcibly from its role as observer into that of recipient, even unrestrained participant, of the bludgeoning energy deflected outwards from platform to auditorium. Not only was the assault of the opening chords almost physically painful to the ear, but there was a sense of restless equivocation throughout the first movement, created by the nervous nudging of overlapping phrases, and the chimeras created, then shattered, by the woodwind.

After Gareth Hulse's oboe had masterfully led the way through the inner movements, the finale reinforced both the brutality of this reading and the orchestra's sheer virtuosity.

Hilary Finch

Cleveland Quartet
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Less grainy, less acid, but also a touch more respectable and conventional, the Cleveland Quartet - who played Dvorak's Cypresses and Beethoven's Op 131 on Sunday afternoon, and who gave yesterday's BBC Lunchtime Concert - have changed considerably in the last few years. The impressive impact of their first appearances here was in part due to the viola playing of Martha Strongin Katz, who has now departed for domesticity, leaving her husband at the cello desk to keep up the family name.

There is still a touch, especially in the leader's playing, of the ungainly, slightly rasping tone that used to be a prominent feature of their playing, but the homogeneous blend and sense of unified tuning and chording has increased, perhaps diminishing slightly the quartet's strong personality. However, that personality is still strong enough to

make the collaboration in yesterday's concert with the pianist Stephen Bishop-Kovacevich slightly surprising. Bishop-Kovacevich, who cultivates a warm, sturdy tone and never makes an unpleasant noise at the piano, is poles away from their approach.

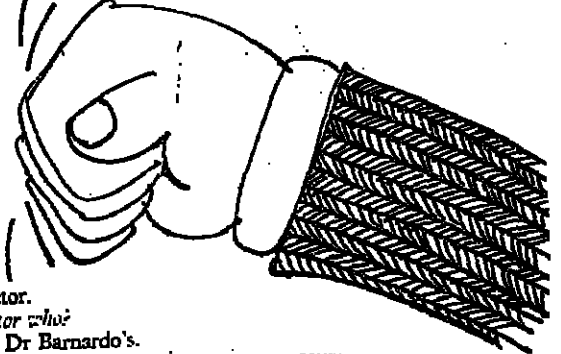
I have no idea how this particular partnership came about (some are made in heaven but others, let's face it, are created out of record company rosters and agents' lists) but in spite of some powerful, splendid moments it did not quite work. Bishop-Kovacevich, tried to be as incisive as possible, but his long-term planning and sustained sound was often at odds with the quartet's more spiky, nervy playing.

The first movement went well - the piano's approach to the recapitulation was wonderfully luminous - yet the slow movement was uneasy and the finale, though full of panache, was distinctly splashy.

Nicholas Kenyon

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THE TIMES DIARY

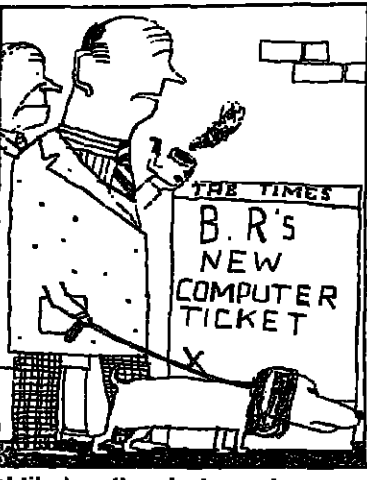
Yassir, that's my stand-in

As Glasgow University students went to the polls to elect a new student body, I was surprised to learn that Yassir Arafat, who could not be there, was represented by an Israeli army officer. Haim Brezhevet, Arafat's campaigner, who was being mercilessly lampooned for the move in Glasgow yesterday, insisted that the once fierce Zionist is now working for peace. Brezhevet, who is head of TV studies at a London college - "but don't say which, or people will call wishing me dead" - told me his motives were entirely altruistic. "I believe in the people's right to self-determination. If Jewish people have it we must extend it to the Palestinians. Last night, Reggie Bannock was out of the fray, ill at home in London. "Nominating Arafat is like proposing Nelson Mandela when he was in prison... anyway, Glaswegians are such an odd lot."

Flattermouse

Press advertisements for *Flattermouse*, a new spy thriller by Derek Kartin, have been claiming that the book is "highly recommended" by *The Times*. This is puzzling since our reviewer has not finished reading it yet. Yesterday, the book's publishers, Century, confessed: "It's not just confusing, it's wrong. A line which would have made it clear that Mr Kartin also wrote another thriller called *Beaver* to Fox, which was reviewed and recommended by *The Times* last year, was inadvertently left out."

BARRY FANTONI



'I liked cardboard - it somehow went with trains running late'

Cardinal error

Anyone caddish enough to turn up at the Ritz in open-necked shirt for its first ever cabaret tomorrow night, starring Adelaide Hall, will not be ejected. Instead offenders will be Windsor-knotted into a pink-striped polyester tie, specially designed by the hotel's manager, Julian Payne.

Ironically, he was driven to creating an emergency kit - cummerbunds and bow ties are yet to come by the improper dress of Pierre Cardin, when he was in London to open Maxim's. With luggage stranded at Heathrow, Cardin had sauntered off in safari suit to find crowds lining Pantons Street, awaiting the "glittering couturier". Horrified, Cardin high-tailed back to the Ritz, dragged Payne from his shower, and pleaded to borrow the manager's only dinner suit. Bent double by the sight of the diminutive Cardin dwarfed in his suit - as well as M & S socks, shirt and cufflinks bearing the family motto, *Male Mori Quam Fidere* (Death rather than dishonour) - the 4ft 2in Payne summoned his valet to perform lightning alterations. Having fooled all at Maxim's, Cardin stuffed the stitched-up suit in a plastic bag and deposited it outside Payne's door the next day - "with a note, and not a monetary one".

Mr Wright

The preoccupation with image building is not confined to the vanities of Hollywood. George Wright, a leading contender to succeed Moss Evans as TGWU general secretary, heard he was being described as smug and difficult to work for. His administrative staff at Cardiff, where he works as the union's regional secretary, were summoned posthaste. After a brief pep talk, they were dispatched to phone their opposite numbers in the London office, over which Wright hopes to preside, and tell them what a nice chap he is.

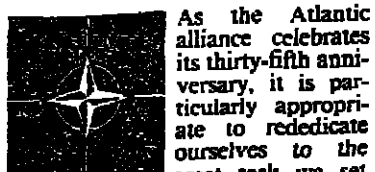
Clive Jenkins, general secretary of the ASTMS, was seen scaling the walls of his union's London office in Camden the other day - washing the windows. He insists he was not breaching union doctrine or demarcation lines - he was just proving he could clean a certain square footage of glass within a given time...

Monster Elvis

Electoral deposits of £1,000 notwithstanding, Chesterfield by-election candidates Lord Sutch of the Monster Raving Loony Party and Sid Shaw of the Elvisly Yours Elvis Presley Party have formed a formidable alliance for their next stand. In an effort to raise funds, the pair - who pulled fewer than 200 votes last week - are selling replicas of their Chesterfield campaign outfits: T-shirt, rosette, poster, two badges, four stickers and manifesto for £6.95 a set. Shaw, a former British consular officer in San Francisco, is marketing the kits from his promotional firm in Shoreditch. The prospect of a by-election in Wales, following Dr Roger Thomas's decision to resign, fills him with glee. "All those Welsh valleys are full of rock'n'roll fans", he says.

PHS

Deterrence and dialogue



As the Atlantic alliance celebrates its thirty-fifth anniversary, it is particularly appropriate to rededicate ourselves to the great task we set for ourselves in 1949. The more closely the nations of the alliance can work together, the better we will be able to preserve peace and stability, and the better it will be for people everywhere.

The values that bind Nato together are not abstract concepts. Individual liberty, the rule of law, and respect for dignity of the individual are priceless and real. They have been handed down to us through enormous sacrifice of blood and treasure. They are the cement of the alliance and we can never take them for granted. And it is the success of democracy, not the military power of the totalitarians, that will shape the rest of this century.

The world has changed a great deal since the representatives of 12 states met in Washington, on April 4, 1949, to sign the treaty establishing the alliance. But the underlying unity and purposes of the Atlantic community have not changed.

The founding members of Nato pledged to safeguard the "freedom, common heritage and civilization of their peoples" and to consider an armed attack against any one of them an attack against them all. Having just experienced the most devastating conflict in history, alliance leaders knew first hand the dangers of war, and the requirement for unity to deter it.

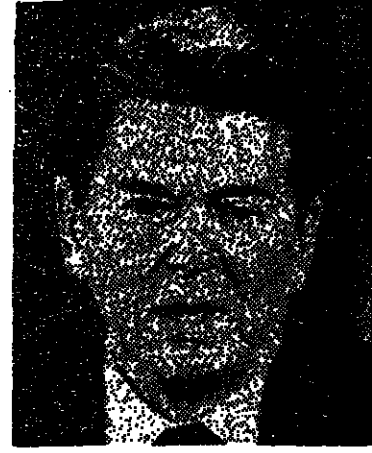
But they had more than sound historical understanding. They had remarkable foresight. The structure of Atlantic cooperation which they built has ensured the longest period of European peace, stability and progress in history.

The challenges which the Atlantic alliance confronts today are no less difficult. If we face them with the same determination, creativity, and sense of responsibility we have shown in the past, the future will be secure. If we are to achieve true peace, we must work for it.

The bedrock of our alliance is our unshakable commitment to ensure our security through collective self-defence. There is no alternative but to maintain a credible deterrent military posture and political solidarity. The continuing growth of Soviet military power will require a sustained effort by all of us - to reduce disparities in the military balance, to broaden our cooperation, to make the necessary investments to keep the peace.

Nato is not solely a military alliance. We also seek to improve the well-being of our people. Sustained economic growth will be the key. In this regard, we need to resist protectionism while we expand our cooperation in the fields of science and technology. We have long recognized that developments beyond the treaty area are relevant to our own well-being.

Building a constructive relationship with the world beyond the treaty area will require great energy and wisdom. We need to work



In the sixth of our series marking 35 years of Nato, President Ronald Reagan calls for continued resolution in resisting the Soviet threat and declares there can be no limit in challenging breaches of human rights

together in addressing the human, social, political and economic conditions which create the instability on which radicalism and Soviet interventionism feeds. This does not mean expanding the treaty area. But it does mean working closer together in sharing the burdens and solving the problems. Since its creation, Nato has always had to address the question of how best to deter Soviet attack. The future will be no different. And we have agreed on the outline of the answer: defence and dialogue. There is no evidence that future Soviet behaviour will be anything but a serious threat to our security and to those principles on which a humane international system must be based. The answer for the future will still be defence and dialogue, a policy of reasonable strength combined with the commitment to search for ways to reduce the risk of conflict. Our challenge is to follow a policy of realism: strong enough to protect our interests but flexible enough to spare no effort in finding a fair way to reduce the levels of arms.

Contrary to popular assertions, the alliance is reducing rather than increasing its reliance on nuclear weapons. The alliance agreed that as INF weapons were introduced, existing weapons would be removed on a one-for-one basis. In addition, however, last autumn Nato decided to reduce the Nato nuclear stockpile by an additional 1,400 weapons. Together with the 1,000 warheads removed three years ago these unilateral reductions will bring the number of weapons withdrawn since 1979 to 2,400. The overall Nato stockpile will be reduced by one third.

A candle of freedom we must preserve

Sometimes, we in the free countries forget the richness of our most precious possession - freedom and human rights. People who live in tyranny, however, can see freedom much more clearly. It shines like a candle in the dark. It is their responsibility to speak out and to work hard for the dignity of mankind, to improve human rights, and to hold governments accountable for their behaviour. This challenge has no limits.

The experience of the past 35 years has prepared the nations of the Atlantic community to overcome these challenges. As long as we stand together we will remain secure. We have not learned rote formulas, to be applied to all situations whether they fit or not. What we have learned is that the alliance is truly durable. While we cannot take our partnership for granted, we can be certain that patience, cooperation, and hard work will pay off. Any undertaking will ultimately be judged by the challenges it accepts and by those it overcomes. We have accepted a worthy challenge and

overcome many of them over the years. There is no reason to doubt the future.

This continuing vitality is nowhere more evident than in the deepening of alliance consultations on the question of nuclear arms control and maintenance of the alliance's nuclear deterrent. The 1979 INF (Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces) decision, taken in response to the deployment of Soviet SS-20 missiles threatening Western Europe, is a shining example of the alliance's traditional approach to western security - the dual foundation of defence and dialogue.

Nato has implemented both tracks of that decision, despite unprecedented political and military threats from the Soviet Union. Nato was responsible for the initiation of the Geneva arms control talks, which the Soviet Union at last resisted. It was through consultations within Nato that our arms control positions were developed. And, it has been the unity and determination of Nato which has made possible the actions needed to maintain our nuclear forces in Europe.

Contrary to popular assertions, the alliance is reducing rather than increasing its reliance on nuclear weapons. The alliance agreed that as INF weapons were introduced, existing weapons would be removed on a one-for-one basis.

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The INF experience is an extremely important lesson for the future. It shows the ability of democratic governments to work together. Despite the stress, even with governmental changes in all of the countries directly involved, we will have been able to maintain a coherent policy. Contrary to the pessimism of many critics, dictatorships do not have an inherent advantage when dealing with free people. When governments remain open, people will respond in the best interests of freedom and peace.

The US will continue to work with our allies to ensure deterrence

at the lowest possible level of nuclear weapons, and to strengthen the capability of conventional forces to deter conflict and lessen the likelihood of war.

As we work to ensure a credible military posture, we are also creating the basis from which to seek more stable and productive East-West relations. On January 16 I underscored my personal commitment to building a more constructive relationship with the Soviet Union, on the basis of realism, strength, and dialogue.

The United States is prepared to pursue dialogue with the Soviet Union in all areas of our relations, from arms control to regional issues, from human rights to bilateral concerns. While I cannot predict the intentions of the Soviet Union, I firmly believe that it is in the interest of both sides that arms control negotiations go forward in all areas which had been under discussion.

The East-West dialogue must also embrace the full range of issues contained in the Helsinki Final Act. If it does not, we cannot expect to strengthen mutual confidence and understanding. In our bilateral dealings with the Soviet Union, and in the multilateral channels of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the nations of the Atlantic community will continue to pursue improvements in the rights of the individual, in greater communication and access, and in meaningful dialogue on the wide range of issues affecting the people of the continent.

From isolationism to awareness

The United States did not come easily to the Atlantic alliance. Independence and continental isolation has been a long tradition. As President Washington put it: "Europe has a set of primary interests, which to us have no or a very remote relation."

That may have been true two centuries ago, but that view was swept away in the violence of two world wars. It became clear that there was no sensible alternative to an active policy of collective security if the democratic nations of the West were to survive.

So long as the sense of common heritage and interests remains vigorous in the West, and so long as the world remains the dangerous and challenging place that it is today, then the Atlantic alliance must be strong and vibrant. On the occasion of the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty, President Truman stated: "If there is anything certain today, if there is anything inevitable in the future, it is the will of the people of the world for freedom and for peace." I share President Truman's optimism.

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A full collection of articles in this series will be published in book form in cooperation with the Georgetown Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Washington.

Roger Scruton

Too divine, but far from a comedy

John Stuart Mill characterized the Conservative Party as the stupid party, his own impeccably liberal opinions and policies being, he implied, far less stupid, and therefore far more fitted for the tasks of government. Mill belonged to a circle of people who believed that government should be conducted by those with intellect, education and ideas. This weird belief has shown a remarkable capacity for survival. Thus, in the United States, East Coast intellectuals groan under the yoke of the "ignorant cowboy" Reagan as though under a barbarian conquest. In Britain too the belief has had considerable authority, and is responsible for the enormous influence wielded over the Labour Party until recently by the Fabian Society. Most striking of all is its success in the communist world, where every major leader, from Lenin to Ho Chi Minh, has justified his usurpation in terms of "theoretical correctness", "revolutionary insight" and "progressive ideas".

The belief that intellectuals have a natural right to govern is the modern version of an old superstition: that of a "divine right" which can sanction the rule of an individual over people who do not wish to be governed by him. It is, however, far more dangerous than the doctrine of the divine right of kings. For a king, as a rule, has a hereditary title. He steps into an office the privileges of which have been steadily eroded by the flux of popular discontent, and the liabilities and responsibilities of which have been determined by a history whose influence is more powerful than his own. Furthermore, his presence on the throne is, and is perceived to be, arbitrary in just the way that human life is arbitrary.

He owes it to no personal quality, to no effort, talent or achievement, but simply to the accident of birth. Kingship therefore represents, in the eyes of the ordinary subject, the accidental quality of his own condition, and by reminding him of the immutable facts of human destiny, reconciles him to the discipline of government. Hence government by a monarch is fairly likely to be government by consent.

Moreover, hereditary monarchy is, in a sense, the most representative form of government. Hereditary entitlement means that, by a natural process, every human type - including the lazy, the stupid, the obdurate, and the insane - has a chance of sitting in the seat of power. Unqualified democratic election, by contrast, discriminates heavily in favour of the energetic, the cunning, the ruthless, and the plausible. Our own system is the result of an attempt to combine the virtues, and cancel out the vices, of both arrangements. We have so

devised the office of monarchy that its tenant acts not from individual impulse, but with the slow measured choice of history.

We have, in effect, created an institution that is wiser than any of its incumbents, and balanced it against a parliament, which the energies of the members are rendered comparatively harmless by the oppressive weight of their official business.

It remains to be seen whether the modern republic will achieve so happy a balance - and, in particular, whether it will provide for the intellectual leader an office equivalent to that of a constitutional monarch, an office which contains more wisdom than the head of its occupant. So far, the results have not been very encouraging. Consider Lenin and Stalin - autodidacts of immense range, who consciously identified themselves as men of ideas, and who justified their crimes in terms of a vision which they alone knew how to realize. Consider Hitler, painter, dreamer, playwright and philosopher, or Mao, who summed up the matter with the words "no army can resist an idea whose time has come".

Consider, finally, the Iranian intellectual whose philosophy of "theocratic guardianship" moved him to return to his homeland after years of justified exile in order to replace the divine right of inheritance with the divine right of truth.

Such cases illustrate the dangers inherent in the doctrine of an "intellectual right". The king whose power is justified by divine right knows that he is answerable to a power who is, in the end, "absolute lord of life and death". The intellectual knows no such thing, but only that what he thinks is right. The intellectual justifies his assumption of power by referring to the impeccable truth or reasonableness of his ideas; hence his capacity to tolerate opposition is jeopardized by his newfound ability to silence it.

Is it not obvious, therefore, that those who advocate "intellectual right" leads naturally to the extinction of all opposing positions, and all rival ways of thought? In other words, is it not obvious that the superstition refutes itself, by extinguishing the very intellectual light that it claims to worship?

Recently, *Le Monde* ran a series of articles entitled "The Silence of the Intellectuals", lamenting the absence of the "political consciousness" which had reigned supreme in the 1960s and 1970s. What has happened, it asked, to these fulminating intellects who provided such an inspiration to the left in the dark days of opposition, and who established the left's "right divine to govern wrong"? The answer is simple. They are in power. No wonder they are keeping quiet.

Robin Cook

The right answer to question time

A hundred of the most senior pupils in the school sit in front of me. Each is attentive, disciplined and silent. There is a barbed pertinence to the query slipped in by the head to fill a lull in questions from the floor. Why is the House of Commons by comparison so often a noisy and disorderly shambles?

For nine hours out of the ten for which it normally sits the Commons behaves with a decorum that would earn the approval of the most rigorous headmaster. The reason why so many of the public come to regard the Commons as a cross between the Tower of Babel and the students next door giving a party is that the broadcast excerpts are almost invariably selected from the one other hour of the day - the slot taken up by Question Time. This is also the one time of day when we are graced by a packed press gallery, and because of that the only time we ever see the members of the SDP who recently have been the most contentious in denouncing parliamentary disorder.

I now wish to give vent to a shocking heresy. Far from providing a platform for the better informed, the British Parliament, Question Time is its nadir. It is the sheer intellectual bankruptcy of the exercise which on occasion reduces the House to a shouting match.

Every member is allowed only one question, which must be limited to two or three sentences, each couched as a question. The capacity of the British political system to throw up problems rather than answers would be readily understood by our Wittgenstein when he learned that the interrogative was the compulsory mode of speech of its politician.

As a method of exercising scrutiny of the executive Question Time is visibly inadequate. Anyone who has addressed a public meeting long enough to become a minister of the Crown has to know how to slip out from under a difficult point when the questioner has no right of challenging the answer.

Each minister develops his own rhetorical trick for awkward corners. I remember one minister in the last Labour government confiding in me that when short of an answer his favourite stratagem was to lean on the despatch box, stare the questioner solemnly in the face and say, "I fully take the point the honourable gentleman is making, but for reasons he will appreciate I cannot comment at this stage."

There never was the slightest reason why he should not answer, but such is the exaggerated respect for secrecy of the members, especially Conservative members, that generally the Opposition member would

nod sympathetically in response, terrified lest he betrayed that he had no idea what the reason might be that the minister could not comment on his question.

Nor can any question be tabled just because it is a matter of concern. My own first attempts at a question fell at the first fence. Among the issues vigorously pressed on me during that election had been the conduct of the Edinburgh military tattoo, which is immensely popular outside Edinburgh but provokes more ambiguous feeling among those who live in the adjacent townships.

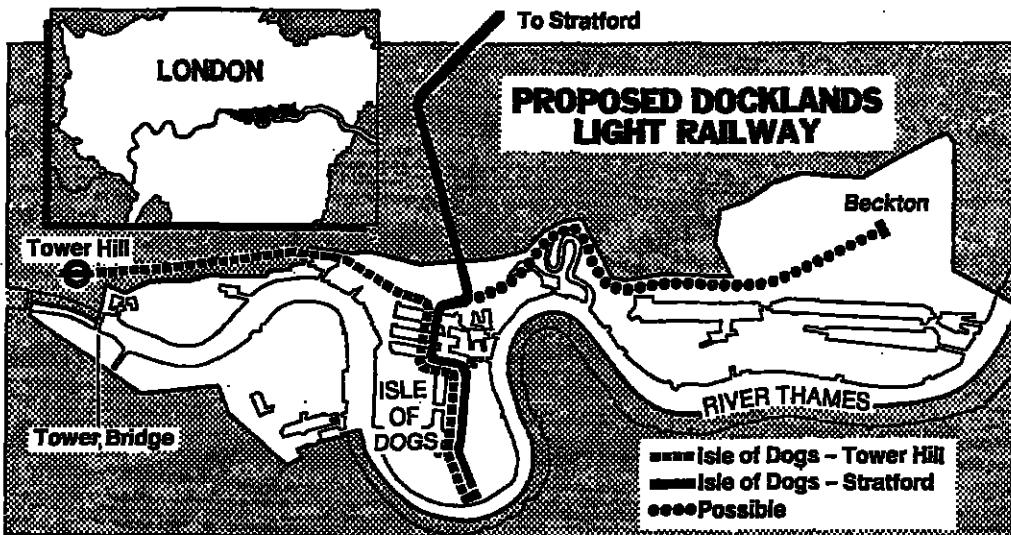
I therefore tried to ask the Ministry of Defence the cost of the annual erection of the scaffolding for the grandstand. This clerk refused to accept on the grounds that the ministry will not entertain questions on the cost of an individual contract lest it provides information of value to a hostile state. In vain did I attempt to reason my way round the bar by demonstrating the improbability of the next war being fought out by two states armed with lengths of scaffolding tubes.

This negotiation with the Table Office must be performed a fortnight in advance of the relevant Question Time. This has the further disadvantage to the member that for two weeks teams of civil servants will crawl over any successful questions, anticipating supplementary questions and drafting alternative replies for the minister. By the day of the match the largest challenge to the minister is finding the right page among the many in the voluminous red loose-leaf binder that he lugs into the chamber.

A much more promising form of scrutiny is provided by the select committee where half a dozen members can grill a minister at leisure with a better chance of discovering his raw spot. Yet the weakness with select committees is that their only power is to supply the House with reports which the House is almost invariably too busy to debate.

I offer this modest solution to that problem. I will drop the charade of Question Time to each minister and use each hour saved to debate reports from the appropriate departmental select committee. This would at once reduce the first hour of each sitting to a state of propriety and earnestness that would drive to drink broadcasters in search of dramatic excerpts, but would also save every member from winning when his local headmaster hints at deplorable standards of discipline in public places.

The author is Labour MP for Livingston.



George Brock investigates a strange tale of wheels within wheels in the Docklands

Shunted aside - but it could still be all change to the robots

The northern French town of Lille has recently acquired the first 7½-mile leg of an urban transit system. It is impressive and slightly eerie: pairs of small coaches running on rubber wheels shuttle quietly up and down, moved not by drivers but by a computer in the suburbs. It carries a million passengers a month and has not so far suffered any accidents. In the east London docklands they are also thinking about urban transit. By 1987, the Greater London Council (or its successor) and the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC) will like to be operating a light railway designed to carry up to 2,500 people an hour in any direction along a 7½-mile distance of track connecting Tower Hill, Stratford and the Isle of Dogs. The network might eventually be extended eastward to Beckton.

This government, from the Prime Minister downwards, has expended a great deal of rhetorical energy promoting the virtues of new technology. Only last month Mrs Thatcher told an audience at Warwick University that too many people cling to yesterday's industries. "I find myself trying to force the pace of change just a little faster", she said. In particular, the docklands is supposed to represent a developing showcase for enterprise and high-tech.

The strange tale of the docklands railway must make anyone wonder just how deep those commitments run. It also raises questions about how the two public authorities involved go about getting value for public money: until last week invitations to tender for the contract had excluded the only consortium which claims to be able to build the railway without the £77m which has been earmarked by the government for capital expenditure.

The consortium involved is Franco-British and raises tricky questions of whether the British stake is large enough, the matter appeared on the agenda for a recent day's talks between the Transport minister, Mr Nicholas Ridley, and his French counterpart, Mr Charles Fiterman. All in all, the railway is causing some uncomfortable

wriggling in Whitehall, County Hall and the Isle of Dogs.

The controversial Docklands Transportation Consortium (DTC), which includes the French Matra group, builders of the Lille system, was refused an invitation to tender in spite of the claim to be self-financing. Whatever the strength of the claim - and no competitor is making a remotely comparable one - it had not at any stage been tested in detail before being excluded.

"We have been manoeuvred against all along", said Mr Peter King, DTC's spokesman. The consortium, however, is not alone. It was first time round, when it had to be reworded or extended, a monopoly supplier would be in a strong position to raise the price. He cited this as one of the main reasons for preferring unpatented steel wheels and rails.

Mr King of DTC replies that the only truly exclusive aspect of the Matra system is the computer programme: the chances that it would not have been stolen, copied or by-passed before the guarantee period expired were negligible.

"One of the things which has been borne in on us", said Mr Clarke, "is that the docklands should be using British technology as far as possible, and preferably such as we can sell elsewhere." He criticized DTC's proposals on this front as made "in only very vague terms". Those suggestions are that 80 per cent of the components would be built in Britain and that any export work would be divided 50-50 between Britain and France.

The chairman of an informal GLC-LDDC steering group overseeing the planning, Sir John Garrie, former permanent secretary at the Department of the Environment, at one stage assured DTC's chairman, Lord Plummer, that it would be allowed to bid. But he warned that he did not hold out much hope; the unions would object to diversions of trains and London Transport and the GLC would object to private money being involved.

Mr Clarke said in an interview that the objection to driverless trains did not come from the unions but from the Railways Inspectorate,

which had been asked for its views and replied that it would not countenance such a thing. Mr King replies that Railways Inspectorate staff have visited the system in Lille and said that it would be acceptable in Britain.

Several officials claimed that the Matra system would be very expensive; but no detailed examination of the performance figures has been made. Before the key technological decision was made, the system had not been in operation for long enough to provide the information and, afterwards, it was considered irrelevant. The consultants' advice was clearly to the effect that it would be too costly. Mr David Bayliss, the GLC's chief transport planner, told me last week that he had not been aware that DTC was claiming to offer a self-financing scheme.

The bewildering variety of reasons advanced against the DTC claim was accompanied by a reluctance to admit that the specifications were being developed in a way that lent away from high tech. At a meeting on January 30, Mr Ridley and his senior officials assured DTC that it would be invited to bid. The following day a letter was signed at the project headquarters telling it the opposite. Invitations were issued to only three firms, two British and one German.

But a ministerial eyebrow or two had already been raised. Mr Ridley's junior minister, Mrs Lynda Chalker, delivered a warning in an answer to a parliamentary question. Before giving final approval, she said, "The Government will need to be satisfied that all options have been properly considered and a sensible procedure has been followed to secure tenders". Mr Ridley had spoken in similar terms when he visited the docklands a week earlier.

Last week DTC determined lobbying said off the GLC and the LDDC "have always been concerned to ensure that the possibility of alternative bids should not be ruled out", it was told in a letter, and it was invited to tender. How good a railway the docklands will eventually have remains to be seen.

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CONDUCT UNBECOMING

Today in the House of Commons the Special Standing Committee starts work on the Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Bill. A decision will soon have to be taken as to the role that conduct during a marriage should play in the financial award after the divorce. The Bill proposes that, in deciding what kind of financial order to make, the court should have regard to the conduct of each of the parties "if that conduct is such that it would be inequitable to disregard it". Critics have claimed that this would represent a return to the bad old days of mud-slinging in divorce, with protracted judicial inquests into the pathology of long dead marriages. Is this so?

The current statute specifically requires the court to have regard to the conduct of the parties in deciding what would be a just order to make, without in any way qualifying the court's duty to investigate this aspect of a case. The Bill, on the other hand, seeks to limit this duty by confining it to those cases in which it would be inequitable not to take conduct into account. The Bill would therefore appear to restrict rather than enlarge the role of conduct in the court's consideration of finance after divorce. So why do the critics say it does the opposite?

The reason seems to be the Court of Appeal decision in *White v. White* in 1973, which held, despite the clear words of the statute, that the court should only take conduct

into account if it was "obvious and gross". For a short period afterwards, there was a tendency on the part of the courts to treat the "obvious and gross" formula almost as if it amended the statute itself. This tendency was quickly checked. In 1974 the Court of Appeal finally retreated from the constricting effect of the "obvious and gross" test and adopted a broader and more flexible approach. It decided that the questions to be asked were: "Would it offend a reasonable person's sense of justice that the conduct should be left out of account and have no effect upon the financial award? Would it be inequitable or unjust to disregard such conduct?" This test has been applied in a number of cases since 1974. All the Bill would do is amend the words of the statute to bring them into line with present practice. The critics' fears seem to be founded upon a misconception.

Should conduct play a part in the court's decision? It is said that the question of conduct is not justiciable, that it can be difficult for a court to ascertain responsibility for the breakdown of a marriage, and that to investigate conduct exacerbates bitterness and wastes costs. These are formidable arguments, but they cannot be allowed to prevail over the need to do justice. The husband who no longer finds his wife attractive and goes off with a younger woman; the wife who leaves because she has become bored with her husband and then tries to have him ordered out of the matrimonial home: is it really to

be said that the courts should ignore behaviour of this kind?

The courts are in fact well able to investigate matters of conduct and reach conclusions upon them, even if the investigation may on occasion be a difficult and time-consuming exercise. Furthermore, judges can limit the scope of an inquiry into conduct and often do so. As for the exacerbation of bitterness and waste of costs, these considerations are outweighed by the greater danger of inducing a deep sense of injustice in a spouse who has been shut out by the court from making serious and well-founded allegations of conduct against the other party. In the law of divorce, the dictates of convenience must give way to the demands of justice.

In many cases, of course, conduct is unlikely to have much bearing on the final outcome, firstly because responsibility for marriage breakdown is often shared in similar proportions, and secondly because conduct is only one of a number of factors which the court has to take into account. The interests of the children have a first claim to consideration, and the length of the marriage, the parties' respective contributions, their needs, their ages, and their past standard of living, are all important matters to be weighed in the balance. Nevertheless, there is no reason why serious misconduct, even if it does not qualify as "obvious and gross", should be disregarded altogether. Most people have a keen sense of right and wrong, and in reflecting that sense the Bill strikes a sound balance.

BUYING SPACE BEYOND OUR KEN

The European Space Agency has good reason to be proud of its successful launch early yesterday of the largest civil telecommunications satellite yet to be placed in orbit with an Ariane rocket for the International Telecommunications Satellite Organisation. It was the eighth flight in the Ariane series. It served notice that Europe is ready to challenge the Americans' near-monopoly of space delivery technology for communications and broadcast satellites, meteorological and scientific spacecraft, and a variety of other types for land and sea surveys, called application satellites for civil purposes.

The responsibility for future flights now transfers to Ariane space which has firm orders for the launch of 25 satellites and options for 15 more, worth a total of £460m. Ariane space has shareholders in eleven countries. Those in France have subscribed about 60 per cent of the capital, with almost 20 per cent from West Germany and 2½ per cent from Britain.

Ariane triumphed over the early troubled history in the evolution of a European space programme. Attempts at a joint European venture began in 1962 with the formation of Eido (the European Launcher Development Organisation) to build a satellite launcher. It was to have

been as powerful as the best American launchers which through the sixties and seventies placed hundreds of spacecraft into orbit. Furthermore, British technology was to contribute a major part of the project. The first stage of the vehicle was to be Blue Streak, a ballistic missile which Britain had discarded. France was to provide the second stage and the Germans the third stage.

There was a difference of purpose between the partners. The British were anxious for a specific return on the investment. The French and the Germans were looking anxiously for some way of getting into large rocket development because they feared space development in Europe could become dominated by the United States. This is important since, in the placing of communications and other satellites in space, the cost of launching is a significant part of total costs. Unfortunately the partners to the joint venture had an incompatible combination of national and international aspirations. Eventually it was abandoned.

The Phoenix rose as Ariane in 1973 when the forerunner of the European Space Agency concluded that during that decade 180 satellites would be placed in the geosynchronous orbit for communications, navigation, weather forecasting and other

work, including 23 for Europe. An agreement to build a European launch vehicle was one of the optional projects for the 10 member countries to support.

With hindsight it is clear that the argument for an independent launcher was a sound one, particularly with events on the last American shuttle flight fresh in the memory. The ease with which the two communications satellites worth £130m were lost would have been more disconcerting without the knowledge that alternative methods of launching were available. It may be too early to salute the commercial vision of the advocates of a European launch vehicle; but advisers to the British Government may care to reflect on past miscalculations now they have visitors from the American National Aeronautics and Space Administration knocking on their door, with an invitation to collaborate in a permanently manned United States space station, that will take about 10 years to develop.

It is a long way to plan ahead. But on this occasion the entry fee for British firms will be buying an opportunity to engage in the future in manufacturing technologies in space and for scientists to work in laboratories on projects which far exceed contemporary horizons. It is not a chance to be dismissed lightly.

NOBLE TRIPWIRES

What if a minister of the Crown were today to rise from the front benches and promise a cash gift of thousands of pounds to each of a group of citizens, 100,000 strong, whose location and circumstances he would be at pains to describe and whose individual merit had not entered his calculations? What if the same minister, his rhetorical staples the need for retrenchment and economy, were to confess he could not even put a total on his proposed outlays of public money for the next financial year or the year after? What if the same minister were only rising because a colleague had in a *louché* moment told fellow MPs that in the old tradition of fiscal promiscuity the Government would "do something"? The conclusion of all this for those able to stop the minister would be obvious: it would be to subject that minister - the ill-starred Lord Bellwin - to yet another deserved defeat on yet another of the bad proposals in the Housing and Building Control Bill.

The above is scant exaggeration. The proposal, of which only a few clauses have yet been sighted, is for a hand-out; money has already been earmarked in the public accounts for 1984-85. Lord Bellwin today asks for power to allow the Secretary of State for the Environment to make grants to charitable housing associations for buying property on the open market then selling it to their tenants at a discount. The effect is to endow these tenants. They are, it appears, to acquire the "right" to

claim from their landlord a capital sum that could - for all the Government has admitted - total the entire purchase price.

Five years ago, in preparing the 1980 Housing Act, the Government decided against giving the tenants of charitable housing associations a "right to buy" at a discount. Compelling the transfer of associations' assets at less than full price was thought, rightly, to breach a long tradition of charity organization. The Government decided that this was worth neither political aggravation nor the hard work that could have followed such a contentious revision of charity law.

However, the success of the right to buy programme - which must rank as a major achievement of the first Thatcher government - led ministers to lose sight of the fundamental difference between compulsory sale of the assets of public authorities (which, arguably, do include non-charitable housing associations which live in a world of markets and substantial public support) and interfering with charities which happen to have received public assistance in the execution of their limited tasks.

The Lords moved last spring with an expedition which occasionally makes of the upper house such a model of Parliamentary forms and purposes. The relevant clause, number two in the original Housing and Building Control Bill, was defeated. After the election the new housing minister, Mr Gow,

made an unfortunate commitment to resurrect the issue. His scheme has to be inferred - the Bill gives no details - but it appears to be a hodge-podge. The Government envisages that anyone living in a house built by a charitable housing association since 1974 with public money is eligible; if he wishes to buy a house then - this is the essence of the "right" - the Government is to compel the association to purchase it for him. The Government then reimburses the association (from money that would otherwise have entered the general housing fund) in the amount of the discount that would have been received had the rules applying to local authority right to buy been in operation. That sounds complex and bureaucratic; and it is.

The House of Lords has an obligation today to smoke out Lord Bellwin. The tenants he is proposing to endow are mostly poor; many are likely to refuse his proffered gift. That makes the plan all the worse. His only defence is the need to treat "public" tenants consistently, an argument to be refuted by reference to the markedly different legal status of housing associations which are charities and are enjoyed by the charity commissioners' rules to specific purposes of alleviating want. Last week, in debate on the same Bill, the Lords mobilized as guardians of the interest of the elderly and disabled. Today it is to be hoped that enough peers will take seriously their role as a tripwire for ministers running headlong into error.

No boundaries for deterrent force

From the Reverend Canon P. B. Hinchliff

Sir, One can understand the desire of the Dean of King's College to produce a justification (feature, March 1) of the nuclear policies of the present Government at the moment when the General Synod is once again debating the question. His very argument, however, shows how difficult it is to transfer the criteria of the just war to the concept of deterrence.

It must be difficult enough to calculate the proportionate and minimal degree of force necessary to achieve a morally justifiable objective in a just war. But it is possible to make a projection which would show roughly, for instance, how large an army, equipped with these or those weapons, would be needed to defend one's country against an aggressor capable of deploying a force of a certain size.

But deterrence is an entirely different kind of concept. How is one to know what kind of threat would be sufficient to deter? The determining factors are psychological rather than factual. Indeed, the greatest weakness of the deterrence theory is that it assumes that those who have to be deterred (the rulers of the nuclear powers) are and will always be wholly rational and therefore capable of being deterred.

It is not difficult to foresee that, if the amendments become law, county councils will sell every house which becomes vacant on the open market and take a capital profit, and who can blame them?

Yours faithfully,
J. T. KELLETT,
County Secretary and Solicitor,
Cheshire County Council,
County Hall, Chester.

Missing steps on smallholdings ladder

From Mr J. T. Kellett

Sir, There is an even more glaring example of the lack of co-ordinated national policy about the place of smallholdings in the rented farm sector to which you draw attention (February 28).

Very many county councils, like Cheshire, have conscientiously and consistently followed the recommendations of the Wise Committee and managed their estates so as to develop a ladder for budding farmers to climb from smaller "starter" holdings through to larger units to which tenants can aspire when they have accumulated the experience and capital.

The latter are the result of judicious amalgamations, which have the useful by-product of leaving surplus houses which are let to smallholders who wish to retire, thus assisting the turnover of lettings.

Now the House of Lords are considering amendments to the current Housing and Building Control Bill which will compel county councils to sell these retirement cottages to their tenants at a discount. The Department of the Environment seem quite unable to grasp that this will frustrate the very policy which the Agricultural Holdings Bill seeks to promote.

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County Secretary and Solicitor,
Cheshire County Council,
County Hall, Chester.

From Councillor Ian Coutts

Sir, Your most interesting leader (February 28) on county councils' smallholdings is flawed by a

contradiction on the attitude of central government to this matter and by your failure to distinguish between the purposes of Lord Salisbury's legislation and its actual consequences.

You refer in one breath to "a government whose inroads into local discretion are notorious" and at the end say that national policy once declared is something local authorities have an obligation to respect.

Nearly 10 years ago Norfolk County Council embarked on a policy of selling some of its smallholdings and the then Labour Government of the day did not intervene and I would not expect the present Conservative Government to do so either. Both governments have made clear that it is a matter for local discretion.

You refer to the importance of the smallholdings as a "farming ladder". Experience over the past 50 years suggests that this "farming ladder" is virtually non-existent. It may be possible to find one or two individuals per county who have progressed on from a smallholding to a large farm, but their total numbers are minuscule.

If politics is the language of priorities then county councils would be well advised to dispose of all their smallholdings. Norfolk has recently sold an estate to a financial institution at £1,500 per acre. This means that for each smallholding of 80 acres we collect £120,000, or enough money to build a small first school for 100 children.

The population of this school changes every four years, so in 3 years 750 children benefit.

Yours faithfully,
IAN COUTTS,
2 The Close,
Norwich,
Norfolk,
February 28.

British Airways future

From Mr John Wilkinson, Conservative MP for Ruislip, Northwood
Sir, I must correct the false impressions which were given in your editorial in the Finance and Industry section of *The Times* of Wednesday, February 22.

First, it was alleged that "the sight of a big, powerful and efficient British Airways has struck terror in some Conservative fainthearts; hence the trying of the lard". Conservatives are actually delighted that British Airways is now profitable.

Secondly, to say that the Tory Aviation Committee is "wet and confused" and the Secretary of State for Transport, Nicholas Ridley, "laid back and languid" is trivial.

Mr Ridley was right to ask the Civil Aviation Authority to do an analysis of the route-licensing system. The CAA is the regulatory body for civil air transport and able to give expert and impartial advice to government.

The Conservative Aviation Committee has no corporate view, but its officers and members are vigorous in advocating policies for aviation. For example, most aviation committee members are keen that the Government should bring British Airways to the market in such a way as to secure the interests

of the travelling public, the independent airlines and the taxpayer.

I made a personal submission to the CAA's review. I stated that privatised British Airways could not constitute more unfair competition to British Caledonian than does nationalised British Airways and that if route-licences were to be bought and sold it would benefit financially only strong carriers and prejudice the interests of the weaker independents.

It would be objectionable to the taxpayer if the debts of British Airways were written off, and the employees who have worked hard to return British Airways to profit should not suffer on privatisation the dismemberment of their airline. The best guarantee of the interests of the independent airlines lies in British Airways operating commercially, which would happen after privatisation if it had to service its existing debt. British Airways might then have to relinquish routes or sell assets which the independents could assume. It would be the market and not government which would ensure that privatised British Airways competed more fairly with the independents.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WILKINSON,
(Chairman, Conservative Aviation Committee),
House of Commons.

Theatre of efficiency

From Mr Alan Ayckbourn and others
Sir, Nearly everyone who works in the British theatre will be glad that the Priestley report has effectively ensured the survival and prosperity of the Royal Shakespeare Company. But a similar study of many other theatres would reveal them to be just as efficient.

For four years the Royal Court Theatre has cut back heavily both on its running and production costs. Actors there are now paid £125 a week. And yet it is proposed that this year its Arts Council grant should be increased at a level below that of inflation.

A theatre which produces only new plays chooses both the most dangerous and the most rewarding possible course. For almost 30 years the English Stage Company has maintained this policy to a standard which has made it admired throughout the world. Its playwrights and actors are now among the best known in the country.

The National Theatre is largely staffed by its graduates. The role of the Royal Court should be properly recognized. It is a national theatre of new writing and should be funded appropriately.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN AYCKBOURN,
HOWARD BARKER,
ALAN BENNETT,
EDWARD BOND,
HOWARD BRENTON,
CAROL CHURCHILL,
DAVID EDGAR,
MICHAEL FRAYN,
The English Stage Company Ltd,
The Royal Court Theatre,
Sloane Square, SW1,
February 27.

Rates levy on moorings

From Mr R. A. S. Sampson
Sir, The effect of the Rates Bill on the mooring of small vessels, to which Mr. G. H. Gower draws attention (February 23), is likely to be more serious than he realizes. My understanding of the situation is that swinging moorings are already rateable under the General Rate Act 1967, but that the identifying and tracing occupants of these moorings makes the actual levying of rates impracticable as the cost of collection would far exceed any revenue.

The new Rates Bill, in schedule 2, enables valuation officers to treat two or more moorings on the same land (whatever that may mean) as a unit, and to demand the rates from the landowner, who will be obliged to act as unpaid rate collector and will doubtless pass on the charge to the occupiers of the moorings.

This will inevitably lead to the development of a rash of moorings in separate ownership and occupation. These will be less well organized than existing moorings, many of which are owned by clubs or boatyards, but will, in actual practice, be unratable. Obstruction to navigable waterways and an increase in hazards to vessels will inevitably occur.

In the interests of all concerned I trust that the Government will have further thoughts about the consequences of this part of the Bill.

Yours faithfully,
R. A. S. SAMPSON, Commodore,
Woodbridge Cruising Club,
Ferry Quay,
Woodbridge,
Suffolk,
February 23

Countryside heritage

From Mr Richard Grove

Sir, Lieutenant-Commander Marten (February 25) asserts that high rates of capital transfer tax and income tax on landowners are leading to the depopulation of the countryside and woodlands in particular. As far as woodlands are concerned he has been sadly misled.

In fact, it is the system of forestry tax exemption and grants provision which is aiding the destruction of the British hardwood resource. Sales of timber are exempt from capital gains tax. Moreover, by switching tax schedules many owners are setting any expenditure on the wood off against income from other sources. This allows a family or a syndicate to fell ancient woodland and replace it with conifers very profitably.

This was done very recently at Spanoak Wood (a site of special scientific interest) in Bedfordshire by a pension fund, with a felling licence from the Forestry Commission. Grants are available from the Ministry of Agriculture to carry out stumping of the wood once it is felled. As a result, many of our ancient woodlands are threatened.

It seems ironic, at a time when there is a surplus of conifer softwood from the enormous sustainable forests of Northern Europe and Canada and tropical hardwood forests are being rapidly destroyed, that we should continue to have a system which subsidises softwood production and destroys the beautiful and useable hardwood heritage which still remains.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD GROVE,
As from: Darwin College,
Cambridge,
February 28.

Open University under strain

From Professor Christopher Harvie

Sir, Fifteen years ago I was one of the first academics to take up a post with the Open University, which I served for eleven very exciting years until appointed to Tübingen. From this vantage point, and with experience of European distance-learning projects, it is, I hope possible to make a reasonably detached assessment of its achievements.

My judgment, for what it is worth, is that the Open University's techniques and organisation and the expertise and adaptability of its staff are still well in advance of anything Europe has to offer in the distance-learning area. This is reflected in the respect in which the Open University is held and the weight given to its experience in any discussion of new learning methods - and not simply those involving audio-visual techniques or distance learning.

One would have thought that a government professedly concerned to facilitate this country's adoption and exploitation of new information technology would further the development of this key institution. Instead, cut after cut in the Open University's budget (see *The Times Higher Education Supplement*, February 24) is disorganising its vitally important planning and production schedules, cutting its student numbers, and steadily demoralising its greatest resource - its dedicated staff.

The Open University certainly cannot be separated from the rest of higher education. It benefited from the flexibility of a system which itself enjoyed remarkable autonomy. Now it, like the other universities, is suffering not only from public expenditure cuts but from what seems a systematic attack on liberal culture as an impediment to "business enterprise".

The prevailing Gradgrind approach to educational development and the Government's economic privatization are together wrecking one of the few areas of the "new technology" in which, in experience and trained personnel, Britain is still a world leader.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER HARVIE,
Nuffield College,
Oxford,
March 1.

Union immunities

From Mr David Newell

Sir, I refer to Lord Wedderburn's ferocious response (February 17) to the call by the Master of the Rolls for "more trade union rights".

We do not know exactly what such rights would include or how they would be received by workers and employers. We do know that the employment Acts have been used by a number of employers with grave consequences for a couple of unions and their members and that, in the short term, workers have had to accept the courts' application of the Acts' provisions, but this has taken many trade unions and academic labour lawyers by surprise.

Surely in the current legislative environment it is correct for a debate to be initiated about the future shape of labour law. I cannot believe that it is in the unions' interests to return to the statutory regime created by the last Labour Government.

The employment Acts have shown how easy it is to partially dismantle trade union immunities. There may be something to be gained by trade unions if they were to adopt the language of rights in the collective labour law field with more enthusiasm.

The content of such rights must be a matter for wide debate. In all the circumstances it is surprising to find the debate being initiated by the Master of the Rolls and adjudicated upon by Lord Wedderburn. Surely it should have been the other way around.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID NEWELL,
Faculty of Law,
The University,
Leicester,
February 20.

Stopping 'The Times'

From Mr C. G. Jarrett

Sir, Your conclusion to "Kicking the dog" (March 1) is absolutely wrong. We, your long-suffering, patient readers are not astonished - we are bored to tears.

We would like to know, quite simply, are the 10 engineers still working for you or not?

Yours faithfully,
C. G. JARRETT,
15 Kensington Gate, W8.

From Mr R. A. Leeson

Sir, On the occasion of each Fleet Street stoppage you produce the same mournful editorial. But on no occasion do you deal with the crucial question: Why is it wrong for newspaper employees to stop a newspaper for a single day and right for a newspaper proprietor to stop it for 11 months?

Yours faithfully,
R. A. LEESON,
18 McKenzie Road,
Bromsbury, Hertfordshire.

Accounting to form

From Mr J. M. Welch

Sir, Why can't HM Inspector of Taxes wait until after Budget changes are announced before posting off our individual handwritten notices of coding (form P2(AC)).

Perhaps the effects of getting things right first time would set too great a precedent and result in too large a saving within his department!

Yours faithfully,
J. M. WELCH,
43 Kennedy Crescent,
Alverstoke,
Gosport, Hampshire.

COURT AND SOCIAL

SOCIAL NEWS

The Duke of Gloucester will open the exhibition, Calligraphy '84, on behalf of the Society of Scribes and Illuminators at the Central School of Art and Design on March 12.

The Duchess of Gloucester, Commandant-in-Chief, St John's Ambulance in Wales, will open St John's Ambulance Museum, St John's Gate on March 14.

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, president of the Guild of the St John's Ambulance Hospital in Jerusalem, will attend a meeting at Grosvenor Crescent on March 21.

The Duchess of Gloucester will attend a concert at London College of Music, Great Marlborough Street, on March 26.

The Duke of Gloucester will visit the Institute of Hydrology, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, on March 27.

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester will attend a concert, in aid of the Blackie Foundation Trust, at St James's Palace on March 28.

The Duke of Gloucester will attend a concert given by the Leicester School Chamber Orchestra, in aid of the Leicester Appeal for Music and the Arts (LAMA), at St James's Palace on March 28.

The Duchess of Gloucester will open the Clinical Diagnostic Unit, Kidderminster Hospital and visit Brinton Ltd, Hereford and Worcester, on March 28.

The Duke of Gloucester, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Pioneer Corps, will attend a ceremony to mark the centenary of the Freedom of Northampton on the corps, at Town Hall, Northampton on March 29.

In the evening as patron, Pestalozzi Children's Village Trust, will attend a reception at Martini Ross Centre, London.

Requiem Mass for Mrs William Stirling of Keir will be offered at St Mary's Church, Cadogan Street, London, SW3 on Wednesday, March 14, at noon.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R. N. Cooper and Miss J. C. Maslin. The engagement is announced between the youngest son of Mr and Mrs R. N. Cooper and Miss J. C. Maslin, daughter of Mr and Mrs R. N. Cooper, of Burnham Over Town, Norfolk.

Dr K. R. Hsieh and Dr A. A. Newbury-Evans. The engagement is announced between Dr K. R. Hsieh, son of Mr and Mrs W. G. Hsieh, of Porth, Newquay, Cornwall, and Ruth, daughter of Mr and Mrs R. N. Cooper, of Burnham Over Town, Norfolk.

Mr M. W. Malet and Miss L. A. Herrera. The engagement is announced between Mr M. W. Malet, son of Mr and Mrs M. W. Malet, of Middle Wallop, Hampshire, and Lilian, daughter of Mr and Mrs D. A. Herrera, of Caracas, Venezuela and Mrs D. A. Herrera, of Ouslow Gardens, SW7.

Luncheons

HM Government. Mr Michael Heseltine MP, Secretary of State for Defence, will be at a luncheon given at 1 Carlton Gardens yesterday in honour of Field Marshal Mohammad Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence and Military Production of Egypt.

HM Government. Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister of State for Industry and Information Technology, was host at a luncheon given at Vintners' Hall yesterday in honour of Mr James M. Beggs, President Reagan's personal emissary from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. The President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, Mr D. L. Haxby, and his officers entertained the Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Mr Pegg Fenner, at luncheon at the college yesterday.

Receptions

English-Speaking Union of Pakistan. The English-Speaking Union of Pakistan held a reception at the Beach Luxury Hotel, Karachi, yesterday to meet Sir John Baggallin, MP, and Mr George A. Gardiner, MP, and Mr White. Mr Ahmed Jaffer, chairman of the council, received the guests.

British Maritime Charitable Foundation. Countess Mountbatten of Burma, honorary president, Admiral Sir Anthony Atrill, chairman of the trustees, and Viscount Leathers, chairman of the founders council, were hosts at a reception held to launch the British Maritime Charitable Foundation.

Science report

Why troops still have to fear mustard gas

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The alleged use of poison gas in the war between Iraq and Iran coincides with publication of a study of chemical and biological weapons by the United States. The study, drawn from the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, is a report on the progress of making a formulation which produced similar effects to the original substances.

Although mustard gas was the first chemical weapon used 67 years ago, development of refined forms continued for more than 30 years.

The first form was a brown liquid, dichlorodiphenyl sulphide, responsible for 70 per cent of the 125,000 gas casualties during the First World War. After that

experience the British and French developed their own mustard gas, and a huge research effort mounted in the United States culminated in 1957. The mustard gas is drawn from the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, which produced similar effects to the original substances.

Chemical plants in 1945 for purification of stocks of gas made by the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory.

The product of purification, by water-washing and vacuum distillation, is known as distilled mustard, or HD. The new study, published as a paperback called *No Fire, No Thunder*, and papers

Birthdays today

Dr M. G. Adam, 72; Mr William Davis, 51; Sir Archibald Forbes, 81; Sir Robert Fowler, 70; Professor Sir Charles Frank, 73; Mr Frankie Howard, 62; Mr Loria Maszel, 54; Mr Richard Noble, 38; Lord Rotherham, 83; Sir Ian Dixon Scott, 75; the Right Rev David Sheppard, 55; the Hon Samuel Silkin, QC, 66; Sir Peter Stallard, 69; Dame Karl Te Kanawa, 40; Mr D. H. Whitaker, 53; Sir Oliver Wright, 63.

Royal Ascot

The list for applications opened on January 1. Those wishing to apply for Royal Enclosure vouchers should do so personally in writing to Her Majesty's Representative, Ascot Office, St James's Palace, London SW1 8PP, before April 30 stating the full names of those members of their families who require vouchers and their ages if between 16 and 25 years.

New applicants must apply before March 31 and will be sent forms which should be completed and signed by a sponsor who has been granted vouchers for at least six previous years. No forms will be considered if they are returned late or incomplete.

In the event of the list of new applicants being oversubscribed, it may be necessary to hold a ballot for Gold Cup Day, June 21. If this should occur new applicants will be informed of the result in May.

In the enclosure, ladies will wear formal day dress with a hat, which must cover the crown of the head, and gentlemen will wear morning dress with top hat, or service dress.

Marlborough College

Marlborough College is able to offer more scholarships for this year. The following awards have recently been made:

Mr T. Lot and Miss M. C. J. Bremley. The engagement is announced between the youngest son of Mr and Mrs T. Lot and Miss M. C. J. Bremley, daughter of Mr and Mrs Lance Bromley, of London and Gibraltar.

Mr J. M. Paul and Miss S. Lambert Baader. The engagement is announced between the youngest son of Mr and Mrs J. M. Paul and Miss S. Lambert Baader, daughter of Mr and Mrs R. B. Cracroft, of Woodford, Dorset, and Sarah, daughter of Mrs C. C. Lambert, of Shotley, Suffolk.

Mr A. C. Pickett and Miss C. M. Jones. The engagement is announced between the youngest son of Mr and Mrs A. C. Pickett, of St Crispin, Clarendon, Gloucestershire, and Miss C. M. Jones, daughter of Mr and Mrs Royden Jones, of Charlton Kings, Clarendon, Gloucestershire.

Mr S. P. B. Tuite and Miss H. M. Tress Youle. The engagement is announced between the youngest son of Mr and Mrs S. P. B. Tuite, of Oxford, Kent, and Helen, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs H. M. Tress Youle, of Henley-on-Thames.

Malvern College

Entrance scholarships and exhibitions 1984.

Malvern College, Malvern, Worcestershire, is offering entrance scholarships and exhibitions for 1984. The college is a boarding school for boys, aged 11 to 18, and a day school for girls, aged 11 to 18. The college is a member of the Independent Schools Council and the Association of Heads of Independent Schools of England.

There is a similar increase in the number of academic awards made after the scholarship examination in May. Closing date for entries April 24. Applications to the Registrar, Tel. 0672-52684.

Moreton Hall Shropshire

The following scholarship awards have been made from September 1984:

Mr J. M. Paul and Miss S. Lambert Baader. The engagement is announced between the youngest son of Mr and Mrs J. M. Paul and Miss S. Lambert Baader, daughter of Mr and Mrs R. B. Cracroft, of Woodford, Dorset, and Sarah, daughter of Mrs C. C. Lambert, of Shotley, Suffolk.

Sale room

Governor Duf sets an auction record

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

The porcelain in Monaco was exceptionally large and finely coloured. The price, at last, tops the sensation of 1973 when £50,000 was paid for a highly coloured figure of a seated elephant. The bid was £68,300 French francs which only 100,000 fr to 150,000 fr had been estimated.

A less fabulous echo of Europe's involvement with China was the magnificent *cloisonné* enamel censer and cover, standing on gilt-bronze elephant heads, stolen from the Summer Palace in Peking when it was sacked by British and French soldiers in 1860.

The censer, with gilt-bronze grills alternating with elaborate enamel designs, was made in the late 19th century and was bought by Lord Loch in 1861. It made the top price in the sale at £88,000 (fr estimate 500,000 to 700,000 fr) or £74,747 and will be going back east, having been bought by Robert Chang, a Hong Kong dealer.

The sale totalled £554,383 with 20 per cent left unsold. The subsequent evening sale of French furniture was more strongly contested for, totalling £803,383 with 11 per cent unsold while yesterday morning's furniture sale made £436,824 with 5 per cent unsold.

A group of chairs made by Folio for the Chateau de Fontainebleau was the most sought after lot in the sale, bringing £10,200 fr (unpublished estimate 600,000 to 800,000 fr) or £76,616. The group includes four finely carved straight-backed chairs painted in grey, and a matching armchair (*berçère*) from the rooms of the Comtesse de Provence and a pair of armchairs (*berçères*) from those of the Princess de Lamballe.

The chairs can be traced in the royal inventories as delivered to the chateau in 1786 and 1787. They were sold to a Paris buyer.

St Aubyn's School

St Aubyn's School, Woodford Green, Essex, celebrates its centenary during the present academic year. Among the celebrations is the governors' wine and cheese party on June 15, 1984, and old boys not already on the mailing list are invited to write to the headmaster for full details of this and of other events.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include Mr David McCann who is a Circuit Judge on the Western Circuit. Mr Norman Ward-Jones to be a member of the Gaming Board. Mr Roy Cowan to be art officer at the Arts Council, responsible for the works of art in public places scheme and patronage schemes.

University news

St Andrews. The new Master of the United College is to be Dr Kathleen MacLver, formerly senior lecturer in the department of geography and currently dean of the faculty of arts. She is the first woman to hold the post.

MacLver, who succeeds Professor David Brynmor Thomas, Bute professor of anatomy and experimental pathology, will take office for a four-year term from August 1.

Latest wills

Sir Henry Charles Husband, of Sheffield, South Yorkshire, the structural engineer who designed the radio telescope at Jodrell Bank, left estate valued at £250,046 net. Other estates include (net, before tax):

Lambert, Mr Uvedale Henry Hoare, of Blechington, Surrey, former High Sheriff of Surrey, £831,116.

Marsh, Mr Marcus Maskell, of Burthorpe, Suffolk, former race-bus trainer, £51,366.

Misener, Mr Laurence, of Maidstone, Kent, £658,588.

Peake, Mrs Maevie Patricia Mary Theresa, of Chelsea, London, £232,669.

Scott, Mrs, £232,669.

Dorothy, of Duddiscombe, Devon, £601,821.



Guildhall had a couple of unusual visitors yesterday when Mr Thomas Copas, a farmer, of Cookham Dean, Berkshire, brought Anna, a Highland cow, and her calf to London to help to launch the Post Office's latest set of postage stamps depicting cattle breeds. The Highland cow appears on the 16p stamp. (Photograph: Chris Harris).

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The Governor Duf figure, which sold for £57,929.

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OBITUARY

MR WILLIAM POWELL

Hollywood leading man

Mr William Powell, the debonair, sophisticated leading man of some of the best of Hollywood's light comedies of the 1930s died yesterday at the age of 91.

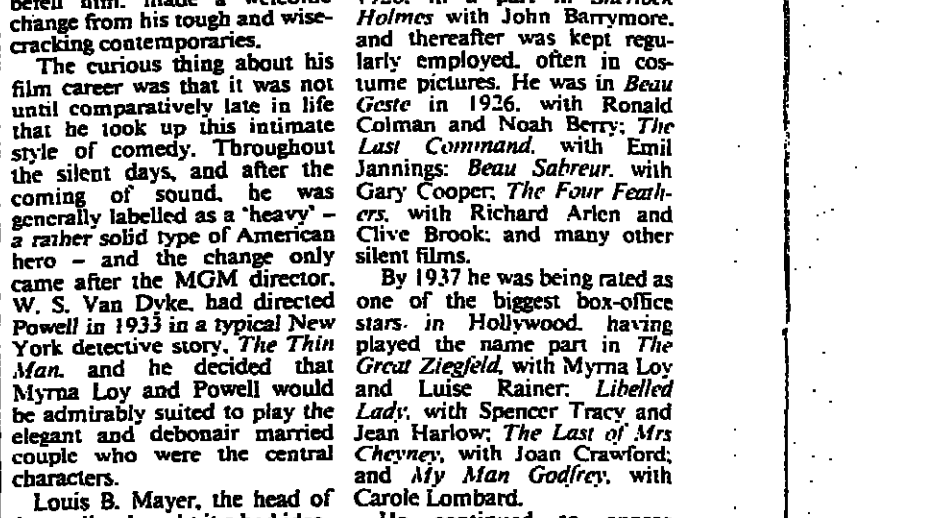
He will chiefly be remembered for his playing in *The Thin Man* series with Myrna Loy. In those days there were not many native Americans in Hollywood with the style for the sophisticated, almost drawing-room type of comedy, and Powell, with his small, neat moustache, his urbane manner and his air of slight but unflinching surprise at the melodramatic adventures which befell him, made a welcome change from his tough and wisecracking contemporaries.

The curious thing about his film career was that it was not until comparatively late in life that he took up this intimate style of comedy. Throughout the silent days, and after the coming of sound, he was generally labelled as a 'heavy' - a rather solid type of American hero - and the change only came after the MGM director, W. S. Van Dyke, had directed Powell in 1933 in a typical New York detective story, *The Thin Man*, and he decided that Myrna Loy and Powell would be admirably suited to play the elegant and debonair married couple who were the central characters.

Louis B. Mayer, the head of the studio, thought it a bad idea, and was only won over by the promise that it would be a cheap picture to make. It was filmed in 1935, cost very little and made a handsome profit at the box office; and Myrna Loy and William Powell became major stars overnight.

William Powell was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on July 29, 1892. He was educated in Pittsburgh and at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York. He appeared in New York in *The Never-do-Well* in 1912, toured the United States in stock companies, and then spent eight years on Broadway as an actor and singer.

He started his film career in



1920, in a part in *Sherlock Holmes* with John Barrymore, and thereafter was kept regularly employed, often in costume pictures. He was in *Beau Geste* in 1926, with Ronald Colman and Noah Berry; *The Last Command*, with Emil Jannings; *Beau Sabreur*, with Gary Cooper; *The Four Feathers*, with Richard Arlen and Clive Brook; and many other silent films.

By 1937 he was being rated as one of the biggest box-office stars in Hollywood, having played the name part in *The Great Ziegfeld* with Myrna Loy and Luise Rainer; *Libeled Lady*, with Spencer Tracy and Jean Harlow; *The Last of Mrs. Cheyney*, with Joan Crawford; and *My Man Godfrey*, with Carole Lombard.

He continued to appear frequently in films for the next 20 years, and was seen with great success in middle age as an orthodox pater familias with Irene Dunne in *Life with Father*, and as a naval commander of the old school in *Mister Roberts*. The light touch which Van Dyke had implanted in 1934 remained with him for the rest of his acting career, and was largely responsible for his continuing success.

After *Mister Roberts*, which was released in 1955, Powell retired from the screen and went to live in Palm Springs with his third wife, Diana Lewis, a former actress. He was previously married to Carole Lombard.

RINTY MONAGHAN

Empire titles, all of which Paterson held, at one fell swoop.

In February of the next year however Monaghan astonished his followers by being beaten by the young Islington flyweight, Terry Allen, in a non title fight during which the world champion paid several visits to the canvas. In April 1949 he defended against Maurice Sanderson of France, adding the latter's European championship to his world and British title after beating him over 15 rounds.

Allen again challenged Monaghan in September and again gave the Ulsterman a hard time, though did not succeed in relieving him of his titles in a 15 round contest which ended in a draw. In the following year Monaghan, increasingly suffering from bronchial catarrh which had plagued him in his championship fights, announced his retirement.

Though his reign as champion was short, Monaghan was a colourful fighter who had an educated left jab and a hard right hook. But he had difficulty keeping in condition in his later years. One of his most notable traits was his habit of entertaining the Belfast crowds with a song after his fights. Win or lose or draw he was apt to seize the microphone after the verdict and render "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling" or "How Can You Buy Killarney" for his fans.

MR L. P. THOMPSON-McCAUSLAND

Rudi Weissweiler writes:

Your obituary of Lucius Thompson-McCausland (February 25) concentrates on his distinguished career in the Bank of England and his part in shaping the world monetary system of today. I had the good fortune over many years to receive his help and advice in explaining currency matters; this showed me the width of his perspective and the depth of his understanding.

However his interests outside money matters were many and real. As a devout and practising Christian he put his professional knowledge at the disposal of the Church of England, especially in the diocese of St Albans. He was active in many ecumenical endeavours and discussions. He served as High Sheriff of Herefordshire.

His connexion with the Working Men's College at Camden Town deserve particular mention. In the 1920s he volunteered to teach English there, and in 1940 was elected to the post of Principal of the Corporation, the college's body of trustees, and was then elected to be Principal of the College, an office he held for 11 years with great distinction and obvious enjoyment. His courtesy and moderation made "T.M." an ideal mediator and a genial host. His part in steering the College through years of change and growth was decisive and positive.

MR GEOFFREY BROWNE

A correspondent writes:


Geoffrey Browne, who died on February 17, was not simply the founder and builder of the Economist Intelligence Unit, but he was also the man who first succeeded in selling market and economic research in Europe and in the developing world to American business. In the 1950s he was an indefatigable traveller and salesman in North America, to such effect that the company he directed became as well-known there as native companies and was the first successful British exporter of economic and market research.

He was instrumental too in persuading the World Bank to consider economic consultants on a par with engineering consultants, and in so doing helped to cause a considerable and permanent change in the way in which the Bank examines major investment projects in the developing world.

Any reference to "GSB" would be incomplete without mention of his gift for recognizing promise in young people and his skill in nurturing it. His help to people seeking career advice was well-known and came easily from someone who had earlier had to make a choice between joining the Hong Kong-Shanghai Bank and becoming a professional footballer with Charlton Athletic.

The Earl of Strarford, 7th

Earl, died on March 4, the age of 79, and is succeeded by his son, Viscount Enfield.



Decorative, Topographical and Sporting Prints: Tuesday, March 6, 10.30 am, King Street: Edward Lear, 19th century writer and watercolourist, is represented in the sale by his very rare series of 20 views in the Isle of Man, a subject which was of particular interest to him. A set of six views of sugar will also be offered. English subject matter includes a set of eight tinted lithographs of 1852 depicting views of Lowestoft by Henry Charles Terry.

Chinese Export Porcelain: Wednesday and Thursday, March 7 and 8, 10.30 am both days and at 2.30 pm only on Wednesday, King Street: A 650-lot sale over two days will feature a Doucai 'Commedia dell'Arte' plate for the Dutch market, painted with a figure dancing on a tiled stage. From the Kangxi/Yongzheng period, this plate belongs to a series of six which satirized speculation in John Law's 'Company of the Indies' and the London South Sea Company. A large hardwood rectangular throne from the 18th or early 19th century is expected to realise in the region of £3,500 to £5,000.

For further information on these and other February sales, call 01-839 9060 for King Street or 01-581 2231 for South Kensington.

Clocks and Watches: Thursday, March 8, 10.30 am, King Street: A Joseph Knibb quarter-striking bracket clock with *de-tac* escapement, circa 1680, is the highlight of this sale. An extremely rare walnut miniature longcase mouth-going timepiece, again by this famous London maker - the third of only two previously published examples - will also be offered.

Modern British and Irish Pictures: Friday, March 9, 11 am and 2.30 pm, King Street: D. H. Lawrence was deeply stirred by it and thought it quite the best modern picture he had ever seen. He was commenting on what artist Mark Gertler (1891-1939) himself described as 'a large and very unsaleable picture of a Merry-Go-Round' on which he was working. Gertler's forebodings about its saleability were well founded... but it should realise between £40,000 and £60,000 at the end of the week. Works by Irish artists will include no less than six items by Sir John Lavery, of which one has been 'lost' for the better part of 80 years.

CHRISTIE'S

A WEEK IN VIEW

For further information on these and other February sales, call 01-839 9060 for King Street or 01-581 2231 for South Kensington.

مركز الأصل

THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

The rocky road leading to fiscal neutrality

Since its inception, the Institute of Fiscal Studies has been trying to grapple with the distortion of savings by the tax system. Its first effort, in the Herculean Meade report on direct taxation, fell by the wayside — rightly. Its idea of a savings deductible expenditure tax required an enormous upheaval to achieve relatively little and would have resulted in the basic rate of tax being much higher — precisely the opposite of what should be the top priority for long-term income tax reform.

A new IFS study called *Savings and Fiscal Privilege* by Mr John Hills scores another frustrating miss. It is frustrating because Mr Hills has ingeniously managed to parade the distortions in a quantified spectrum of "privilege" — the difference between the effective rate of tax on the real return from different forms of personal investment — in the most graphic and convincing way yet.

The problems are plain to see: in terms of economic efficiency, equity, the diversion of savings to institutions or the bias in favour of investments used by the wealthy and the sophisticated. Whatever the intention of tax allowances, for instance, it is difficult for a 10-year life assurance policy cashed early to earn a far greater relative tax benefit than a long-run policy.

Indeed, tax can play such an overwhelming part in the difference between the real rates of return on different investments that the old City saw that you can sell an Englishman anything so long as it saves him tax shows the Englishman in a more canny light than most suspected.

Mr Hills's suggested solutions must, however, be judged a failure because, again, they create more complexity and as many new problems as they solve.

In a half retreat from the Meade position, Mr Hills wants to split investments into two categories: the privileged, like pensions, life assurance and house purchase and the unprivileged, especially deposits and achieve fiscal neutrality within each group, to a tax inflation-ad-

justed return equal to the individual's marginal rate of income tax.

For the privileged modes of saving he wants the money put in to be fully deductible from income tax but the money taken out fully liable. This means taxing capital sums as income, producing either massive unfairness or the complexities of tax spreading on a large scale. One coincidental effect, full taxation of cash commuted from pensions, runs right against the reasoning behind the current fervour for pension reform.

On the non-privileged side, Mr Hills calls for index-linked capital gains to be treated as income and is in general much too hung up on impractical index-linking schemes to aid uniform taxation of real returns.

The principles and some of Mr Hills's suggestions are correct. But are we any nearer seeing some progress? The Treasury has just taken steps to equalise the treatment of banks and building societies but in the process seems intent on penalising bank depositors who do not pay income tax by extending the building society composite tax rate rather than abolishing it.

The Chancellor is evidently about to move heavily into the taxation of savings in his Budget. On the surface he has two linked aims: to ease distortions between closely competing institutions in ways that ease the Inland Revenue load.

More thoroughgoing reform runs up against the old political problem that it is much easier to give a tax privilege than to take one away.

Unless changes are properly phased over a period (in stark contrast to recent moves), they merely upset people's plans and expectations and create a general air of uncertainty.

But the correct tax reform, however long it takes, might be to phase out relief of pension contributions and life premiums and the self-defeating relief of mortgage interest in order to slash the basic rate of tax. In the end, lower tax rates are the best antidote to distortions.

Base rates conundrum

Amid general euphoria, the Government broker yesterday pressed yet another tranche of official debt into the eager palms of the gilt-edged market. At roughly 11am, with long stocks agreed by half a point, he revealed that supplies of the £1 billion long tap, Exchequer 9% per cent 1998, were exhausted. They dropped on initially at 25½ then at 25¼ and finally at 25½.

Apart from helping the funding programme, the tap sale shows the scale of turnover in sentiment in gilts during the past month. Issued in early February, and kitted out with super-star status as the first medium-dated issue for two and a half years, Exchequer 9% per cent 1998 immediately fell into the dog stock category. The issue flopped under fears of higher US interest rates and the bulk was left at the post. Since then, however, gilts have risen by as much as 2½ points.

By mid-afternoon yesterday, the wind was again beginning to change.

The money market has clearly made up its mind that base rates are on the way down. Reluctance to part with paper presumably accounts for the mere £8m of hard one bills purchased yesterday morning by the Bank of England, while over-supply of credit by the bank in the afternoon was taken to condone what had happened, while leaving intervention rates were unchanged.

Other parts of the market, however, are keeping a steady eye on the conditions of the new tap. 1 billion of Exchequer 10 per

cent 1989, announced with precision timing last Friday, for sale by tender tomorrow. At 10 per cent, the coupon is back into double figures, and suggests that the bank will be more concerned to hurry slowly over lowering rates, in the hope of retaining some curbs on the present credit boom.

January's retail sales figures, which show a 3 point plus fall in volume compared with the December index, are a murky guide because of bad weather and fog in the statistics. More pertinent will be today's announcement of the money supply figures for the February banking month.

The smart move according to dealers, is to play the put and call option and wait for the money supply figures, since tomorrow's tender offers a reasonably painless way back into the market, if the figures are good. But technical factors could still torpedo such delicate calculations. The word now is that building societies have seen a massive £1.250 billion inflow during February, and such cash must surely find its way into gilts sooner rather than later.

In addition, the authorities are rumoured to be cooking up a shrewd deal with the building societies, whereby tax-sensitive low coupon stocks can be swapped for the new tap, on a cash for cash basis. Assuming this story is true — and no-one was actually denying the possibility last night — then the new tap might disappear without trace, base rate cuts or no.

Barclays' profit rise dented by heavy bad debt provision

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Barclays Bank opened the results season for the big clearing banks yesterday with a much stronger underlying performance than expected. But a large and unforeseen increase in the bank's general provision for bad and doubtful debts, with the result that a 12.5 per cent gain at the pretax level to £557m was broadly in line with what analysts had forecast.

Over past five years Barclays' general provision has averaged £21m, but Sir Timothy Bevan, chairman, justified the sharp increase on the grounds that it reflected "general and continuing uncertainty in the world". Barclays also said it wanted to restore the level of general provisions which had fallen in recent years.

However, some banking analysts suggested yesterday that Barclays may be responding to Bank of England hints to increase provisions and may

also have been influenced by speculation that next week's budget will contain some nasty surprises for the banks.

Including a one-fifth rise in specific provisions to £390m, the total charge against the profits for bad and doubtful debts rose from £328m to £475m — about £100m higher than most outside estimates.

However, Barclays is confident that provisions in Britain and the United States will be down this year, although it is more cautious about Asia, where Hongkong has been a particular problem.

Because the general provision is not allowable for tax and the group did less leasing last year, the group's tax charge has risen steeply from £131m to £220m and earnings per share were down from 96.7p to 84.8p. But dividends for 1983 are still being increased from 22p to 24p net, a rise of 9 per cent. There was an improvement



Sir Timothy: continuing uncertainty

in the United States, after a £35m preinterest loss in 1982 reflecting heavy provisioning against loans to several large corporate customers. Although provisions were still high in 1983, US operations recovered to a £16m profit. Higher profits from South

Africa were further boosted by currency gains on translation and showed a 51 per cent gain to £118m in sterling terms.

United Kingdom profits before loan stock interest increased from £416m to £425m. The domestic bank suffered from a higher level of bad debt provisions than expected early last year and contributed an unchanged £314m. However, the previous year included £45m of gilts profits compared with very little this time.

Barclays has been keeping a tight hand on domestic costs. Staff numbers in the parent bank were unchanged, and there has been some volume growth with advances up 11 per cent to nearly £19 billion. But a rise of about one-third in commission income in the parent bank was the most significant factor on profits, reflecting higher bank charges for personal and corporate customers.

January lull in spending boom

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

Business in the shops dropped by 3 per cent in January, giving the retail trade its worst month since last summer. But fears of an end to the consumer spending spree may be premature.

Heavy snow and the start of winter sales in late December are thought to have been largely responsible for the fall, according to officials at the trade and industry department.

The latest survey of retailers by the Confederation of British Industry suggests that business recovered strongly in February.

Despite the January setback, the volume of retail sales was still 2.5 per cent higher than a year earlier. Trade in the three months to January, adjusted for seasonal factors, was 1 per cent

RETAIL SALES AND CREDIT		
Month	Volume 1983-1984	New credit (£m)
1981	100.4	7.854
1982	102.5	9.109
1983	107.9	10.521
1982 Q4	103.9	2.477
1983 Q1	105.5	2.620
Q2	107.3	2.540
Q3	108.3	2.646
Q4	110.3	2.815
1983 Nov	111.0	2.978
1984 Jan	107.7	965

Source: Department of Trade and Industry.

up on the previous three months and 5.3 per cent above the level of a year ago.

Rebasing of the retail sales figures, so that 1980 now equals 100, has slightly reduced estimated growth last year from 5.7

per cent over 1982 to 5.3 per cent.

The government will publish next week its Budget forecasts for the economy over the coming year or so.

Separate figures from the trade and industry department show little slackening in people's eagerness to borrow. Retailers, finance houses and other specialists lent £965m in January, only slightly less than December's record of £978m.

Steady rapid growth of 3 to 4 per cent a year accompanied by a return to price stability and a drop in unemployment under 2 million by 1987, are forecast by Liverpool University economists headed by Professor Patrick Minford in their latest *Quarterly Economic Bulletin*.

Cuckney in line to head Royal

By Philip Robinson

Sir John Cuckney, the man backed by financial institutions to rescue John Brown, has emerged as favourite to become the next chairman of Royal Insurance.

Mr Daniel Meinertzhagen, Royal's present chairman, is 70 next March. It is the company's custom to elect its chairman annually and not to allow directors to remain after their seventh birthday.

Yesterday Mr Meinertzhagen told shareholders of Alexanders

Satellite costs hit News International

By William Kay, City Editor

News International, the British arm of Mr Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation, yesterday announced that profits for the half-year to December 31, 1983, rose to £18.65m against £12.22m for the comparable period in the previous year. Turnover was up from £194.70m to £223m. News International owns Times Newspapers, publisher of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, and also publishes *The Sun* and *News of the World*.

However, the profit has been struck before extraordinary items. The net deficit on these items rose from £1.77m to £32.16m. A statement from the company said: "Extraordinary items consist of the settlement of the transponder leases in the United States, and other costs following the decision to postpone satellite operations in the country, and unfavourable currency movements."

Computer group seeks quote

By Wayne Lintott

Systems Reliability, a computer group, is seeking a quote on the London Stock Exchange. Barclays Merchant Bank yesterday announced the sale of 2,631,500 shares, equivalent to 29.6 per cent of the company's equity, at 270p a share.

The broker to the issue is Phillips & Drew. Subject to the shares being admitted to the official list, it expects dealings to begin on March 19.

At the price sought, the company would have a stock market capitalization of £28.4m. Barclays said that since the year ended December, 1979 Systems pretax profits have risen at an annual compound rate of 86.5 per cent and amounted to £2m for 1983.

Systems Reliability designs, manufactures and sells computer-based telephone management equipment and provides back-up maintenance for its own and other manufacturers' computer systems. It sells under the trade name Tel-Tag.

Eastern block loans to resume

From Bailey Morris, Washington

For the first time since the Polish debt crisis of 1981, Western banks are to resume lending this year to the Soviet Union and Eastern block countries, which have made impressive progress in reorganizing their economies over the past three years.

Surveys by private US banks and the private forecaster Wharton Economics in Washington, revealed that Western banks, particularly those in Western Europe expect

a surge in terms of net new lending to the Soviet block.

With the exception of Poland, which remains deeply in debt, the collective debt of the five other eastern European nations declined from \$3.9 billion (£2.45 billion) in 1981 to \$2.9 billion last June, when the most recent figures were compiled.

During the same period, the trade balances of Eastern European countries improved dramatically. Preliminary fig-

Pound gains on dollar

The dollar came under pressure against the Japanese yen and the Swiss franc yesterday, while sterling closed mixed on the foreign exchanges as speculation over a cut in UK interest rates persisted.

The pound closed up 40 points at \$1.4850 against the dollar, but its value measured against a basket of leading currencies fell by 0.3 to 82.1. Sterling suffered most against the yen, closing 5.0 down at 333 yen.

Rates continued to ease in the domestic money markets in anticipation of a ½ per cent cut in bank base rate to 8¼ per cent.

The dollar closed at 223.5 yen yesterday, down 4.5, while against the Swiss franc it slipped from Sfr 2.1510 to 2.1245. The American currency was also weaker against the Deutsche mark although it closed off the lowpoint, down ½ pfennig at DM 2.5755.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1053.7, down 7.0 (day's high: 1064.3, low: 1053.7)

FT Index: 832.6 down 6.3
FT Gilts: 82.83 up 0.11
FT All Shares: 499.91 down 1.58

Bargains: 23.210
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 108.85 up 0.03
New York: Dow Jones Average (latest): 1165.10 down 6.38

Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 10,088.94 up 32.43
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index: 1102.05 up 22.42

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling \$1.4850 up 40pts
Index 82.1 down 0.3
DM 3.8325 up 0.0025
FF 11.7750 down 0.015
Yen 333 down 5.0

Dollar Index 125.1 down 0.4
DM 2.5765 down 0.0052
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.4880
Dollar DM 2.5100

INTERNATIONAL
ECU £0.584911
SDR £0.717017

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9
Finance houses base rate 9½
Discount market loans week fixed 9½-9
3 month interbank 9½-9½

Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 10-10½
3 month DM 5½-5½
3 month Fr 15½-16½

US rates
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9½
Treasury long bond 98½-98½

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$408.85 pm \$405.85
close \$405.50-406 (2272.75-273.25)
New York (latest): \$405.25
Kruggerand (per coin): \$418-419.50 (\$281-282)

Sovereigns (new): \$95.2595-25 (\$64-64.75)
*Excludes VAT

NEWS IN BRIEF

Goldsmith confirms US deal

Sir James Goldsmith yesterday confirmed reports that his General Oriental company had acquired "an investment" 4.7 per cent of the common stock of St Regis Corporation, the US paper-maker. He has paid \$39.8m (£40.4m). GO has also entered into an agreement with other investors who have paid \$52.5m for another 3.9 per cent of St Regis.

The associates are believed to include Charterhouse J. Rothschild, the London merchant bank and Mr Kerry Packer's Consolidated Press of Australia. Talks so far inconclusive, have been held between Sir James and the St Regis board.

Mills & Allen International has bought Glen Insurance Brokers for £2m. Glen has 23 stores with an annual income of £4.9m and this takes M&A's branch network to 118, servicing 330,000 customers.

New Zealand's current account balance of payments deficit narrowed to \$NZ92m (£44m) in January from \$NZ203m in December, compared with a \$NZ34m surplus in January last year.

Palmer and Harvey yesterday made a £1.28m rescue bid for P. Panto, the loss-making wholesale tobacconist, confectioner and grocer. The terms of the offer, worth 30p a share in cash, have been agreed by the company's directors.

Hongkong jobs boost

By John Lawless

Hongkong's order for two electric power plants, worth £2 billion, has provided 17,000 jobs for between five and seven years in Britain's areas of high unemployment. Mr Len Dunning, executive director of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, said yesterday.

And if this month's bid by GEC to supply turbines and other equipment for China's nuclear programme succeeded, it would only be because Hongkong had agreed to buy back 70 per cent of the electricity from the new nuclear power station at Daya Bay, in China.

"We are buying billions of pounds worth of sophisticated

equipment from Britain, which probably makes Hongkong the biggest British market in the Far East. But more British companies have to learn how to use Hongkong's unique relationship with China to clinch the very substantial deals that are now being done," Mr Dunning said.

The surge in companies setting up in Hongkong proved that the more alert companies had ignored gloomy reports about the colony's future.

"During 1983," he said, "a total of 257 new foreign companies registered in Hongkong and in the first 10 months foreign interests invested HK\$7.8 billion (£91m) in the manufacturing sector alone."

Four British banks face losses

Japanese trader goes under

From Richard Hanson, Tokyo

Shock waves from the collapse of a medium-sized trading group in Tokyo, J. Osawa and Company, are being felt by a large number of banks around the world, including four British banks, which stand to lose part, if not most, of a reported 16.2 billion yen (£45.9m) credit given by foreign banks.

The Osawa group, a little-known company, may have dished up the worst and most widespread losses ever suffered by foreign banks in doing business with a Japanese company.

Citibank is the largest of the foreign lenders, with 2.7 billion

yen, followed by Chartered Bank with 1.862 billion yen and Hongkong and Shanghai Bank with 1.243 billion yen. Most of the lending by these three banks was made to Osawa subsidiaries around the world, according to a list published yesterday by *Japan Financial Report*, a Tokyo-based economic newsletter.

Further down the creditors' list are Midland Bank with 220m yen (£620,000) lent to Osawa in Japan and 356m yen (about £1m) to Osawa overseas, National Westminster with 533m yen (£1.5m) loans in Japan and Grindlays with 400m

yen (£1.13m) in Japan. Globally, there are 42 banks in 14 countries involved. In Japan, there are 73 banks who have lent 42 billion yen.

Outside Japan, the most heavily involved in loans to Osawa subsidiaries among the 42 foreign banks are later Alpha (Hong Kong) with \$81m yen, United Overseas Bank (Singapore) with 34m yen, and National Australian Bank with 326m yen, according to the Tokyo newsletter.

Osawa's petition for court protection last week, under Japan's bankruptcy laws, rocked the Tokyo financial

community. It is the third largest corporate failure in Japan since the war. Its total debt is placed as high as 125 billion yen.

The damage has already begun to spread. Mamiya Camera, whose high-quality products were distributed by Osawa, yesterday sought court protection with 25 billion yen in debts. This is the first instance in Japan of one listed company bringing down another since the end of the war. Osawa's woes began with a slump in camera sales and its other lines of products, especially sports goods.

SAVINGS UNDER ATTACK

It seems likely that the Government will abolish Life Assurance Premium Relief in Nigel Lawson's first Budget announcement next Tuesday. Such a move would clearly have far-reaching effects for all investors — so it's absolutely vital to ensure that you take maximum advantage of LAPS before it disappears for ever.

Executives of Reed Stenhouse Gibbs will be manning the telephones to answer your questions about the implications of this move — and to tell you how we can help you to counter it. But, remember, you must contact us immediately to ensure that the necessary urgent action is taken as quickly as possible.

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This could be the last time the government will pay you to invest TAX-FREE

There are strong indications that the Budget on Tuesday March 13th will remove the government bonus of 17.65% on contributions to "qualifying" life assurance policies.

However, there are equally strong indications that this will not be removed from policies already in force.

Without doubt, therefore, you should start a policy now - to ensure you benefit from this bonus for the next 10 years.

And without doubt, the policy you should buy is one with a tax-exempt friendly society - which not only benefits from this valuable tax bonus, but

which builds up your money COMPLETELY TAX-FREE.

Through Lancashire & Yorkshire you can enjoy the added bonus of investment management by Gartmore, one of the foremost names in the City of London. Up to £2,000 life assurance cover is provided too.

If you are eligible (that is if you are married or have a dependent child), please telephone for further details and an application form NOW - and make sure your application is submitted in time for your "Super Plan" to be issued before the Budget.

"Tax relief threatened" Daily Mail, 2 March 1984.
"Last minute warning to Britain's Savers" Daily Express, 2 March 1984.

PHONE THE FRIENDLY HOTLINE NOW

Dial 0800 and ask the operator for FREEPHONE FRIENDLY - OR Ring Sheffield (0742) 750077 direct. THE HOTLINE phones will be open between 9am and 4pm on SUNDAY and from 9.30am to 5pm during the week.

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APPOINTMENTS

Plessey Three-Five names new chief

Plessey Three-Five Group: Mr Alan Price has been appointed managing director. Williams & Glyn's Bank: Mr Alan Peers has been appointed assistant general manager, Domestic Banking North, in succession to Mr John Newton who has retired. Mr M H Vaisey, senior manager, Holt's Branches and Child & Co, has become assistant general manager in the bank's personnel division, the post previously held by Mr Peers.

Gill & Duffus Ltd: Mr I C L Harrison and Mr B N Tribe have been appointed directors of the company, a subsidiary of Gill & Duffus Group. Mr P J Day has been made deputy chairman. Mr K B Jenkins and Mr R M Swinchatt have been appointed joint managing directors.

Ibstock Johnson: Mr Philip Ling has become a non-executive director. He is group managing director of London & Midland Industrial.

Tyzack & Partners: Mr Edmund Barton has become a partner in the associate company in Hong Kong. Tyzack & Partners (Far East).

Hanson Trust: Mr Peter Harper has been appointed director. Mr Harper is executive chairman of Alders, the retail division of Hanson Trust.

Ferranti: Mr David Grundy, head of Ferranti Microelectronics Centre, has joined the board of Ferranti Electronics.

Rowbotham Insurance Group: Mr P F Dennis will relinquish the position of



Alan Price: top place at Plessey

managing director of C Rowbotham & Sons (Insurance) and the title of group chief executive, and become deputy chairman. Mr C H Bowen will assume the responsibilities of group chief executive. Mr Dennis continues as chairman of all the subsidiary boards and retains responsibility for companies in which the group has an investment. Mr Bowen will be appointed deputy chairman of the subsidiary boards, with the exception of Rowbotham & Sons.

National Home Improvement Council: Mr Jim Fallon, MK Electric's director - external relations, has been re-elected to the board.

Arbuthnot Factors: Mr Gordon Harris and Mr Roger Taylor have become directors. D. Anderson & Son: Mr Richard Gribbin has joined the board as director responsible for finance and administration. He was previously company secretary and chief accountant.

Bullough's second purchase in a week

By Philip Robinson

Bullough, the engineering and furniture making group, yesterday paid £4.8m for a private business aids and stationery company. It brings to more than £11m the total Bullough has spent on acquisitions in the past week, and to almost £15m in the past five months.

Five days ago it paid £6.5m for George Barker and Company (Leeds), the engineers, which also makes refrigerated display cabinets, 87 per cent of whose sales went last year to Marks and Spencer.

In the latest round, Bullough's has bought, for cash and shares, Westwood Holdings from Mr H. Gerald Kennedy and his family. It is paying £4m cash and issuing 265,000 shares. Last night Bullough's shares fell 10p to 323p.

Bullough is funding the purchase through a seven-year loan from its bank. Net assets of Westwood at the end of last December were £2.68m. Pretax profit came out at £981,000 on sales of £10.2m.

Westward's business aids operation imports and distributes guillotine, collators and other office equipment.

Bullough's profits record has been patchy but they rose to a pretax high of £6.8m last year.

British Vita given 43% earnings lift

By Jeremy Warner

British Vita, which makes foam rubber and duvets, staged a big recovery in profits last year and should fare even better this year, as all the company's divisions increase their investment programmes.

Profits before tax leapt 43 per cent, from £7.4m to £10.6m, boosting the group's return on capital from 18 per cent to 23 per cent, helped by the economic recovery.

On the stock market yesterday, the company's share price rose 9p to 213p encouraged by the results and inspired by news of a 3p final dividend, raising the total for the year from 5.4p to 5.9p. A one-for-ten scrip issue is proposed.

Mr Robert McGee, the company's chief executive, said that with a stronger balance sheet, showing net borrowings down to 12 per cent of

shareholders' funds, every division had a "very significant investment programme". The most exciting of these he saw as the £2m investment by the consumer products division on a new fully-automated factory at Middleton, near Manchester.

The project will create 80 jobs. Capital spending in Europe generally is projected to rise by more than half this year, from last year's level of £3.5m. The group is also planning significant international development, particularly in Australia and the Far East.

The Australian company is due to go public in the next few months.

Although the big increase in profits last year came in Britain, overseas profits were slightly lower.

Farm machinery maker harvests 57% profit rise

By Ian Griffiths

Ransomes Sims & Jeffries, the Ipswich farm machinery manufacturers, said yesterday that it has continued its recovery, with profit before tax up by 57 per cent to £3.2m for the year to December 1983.

Once again the performance was assisted by the results of the US subsidiary, Ransomes Inc. At home, the rationalization of the parent company's manufacturing operations and improved

control over working capital, in particular stocks, allowed a reduction in group borrowings of £5.3m. Interest payments also fell by £500,000 to £1.7m.

With group profit after tax and extraordinary items for the year up by more than £600,000 to £2.19m, there is a final dividend of 10p which, together with the interim dividend, will make a total of 15p for the year.

Management buyout for two IMI subsidiaries

IMI, the Birmingham-based metals group, has sold two small local subsidiaries to the existing management. National Westminster Bank has supported the deal with a £1.5m financing package.

The decision to sell IMI Wilkinson, which employs 120 people in Saleley, and J. R. Ratcliff (Metals), which employs 73 people in Newton, was taken by IMI after attempting to return the companies to profits after three years of losses.

The six-man consortium which is taking over the businesses includes Mr Geoff Birch, previously managing director of the two subsidiaries, and Mr Alec Abercrombie, the former financial director of IMI Rolled Metals. IMI Wilkinson manufactures nickel silver which is used in the telecommunications industry. J. R. Ratcliff makes brass strip and foil.

Both businesses have been hit by falling demand for their products.

In brief

● LEDA INVESTMENT TRUST: Commercial Union has sold 120,000 income shares (9.94 per cent) in Leda Investment Trust, reducing its stake to 495,000 income shares.

● NEW EQUIPMENT: Pretax profits for year to Oct 31, 1983, £283,000 (£287,000). Turnover £2.85m (£2.73m). Total dividend unchanged at 1.15p net a share.

● SANTOS FACILITIES, a subsidiary of Santos Ltd, has signed a US \$100m (£67.5m) term-loan agreement in Singapore. The funds will be used by the Santos group for its expanding general corporate funding needs. The loan was arranged and managed by Australia and New Zealand Banking, Singapore branch.

● ADWEST TAKEOVER: The Adwest Group has bought the Abeco and Eggo plastics machinery companies from Mr Z. Bieganski and members of his family. Principal activity of Abeco is specialist tools for the electronics and electrical industries. Adwest has acquired 75 per cent of the capital, with an

option to acquire the remaining 25 per cent after three years. Net asset value of Abeco at acquisition was £685,000.

● CDFCS £1.4m INVESTMENT: Commonwealth Development Finance has invested \$Can.2.5m (£1.4m) in Counsel Trustco Corp., the holding company of Counsel Trust, an Ontario-incorporated trust company. Counsel Trust had gross assets of \$Can.167m in December, 1983. Its main activity is mortgage lending, funded by customer deposits.

● BRIDON is to buy selected assets of US Steel through its US offshoot, Bridon American Corp. Main assets included in the agreement are the wire rope and strand manufacturing facilities in New Jersey and Indiana. Value of these assets is about \$3m (£2m).

● PARKER KNOLL: Half-year to Jan 31, 1984. Turnover £20.26m (£18.75m). Pretax profit £1.43m (£1.4m). Interim payment up from 2.5p to 3p net a share.

● DARES ESTATES has agreed to buy Rogate for £2.6m in loan stock. Rogate owns freehold and long commercial properties with a market value of about £5.21m.

● CENTREWAY INDUSTRIES has purchased from the receiver the business and assets of Digico, for £265,000. Digico is based in Leeds and manufactures mini and micro computers.

● SLOUGH INDUSTRIAL ESTATES has sold to Shell Pensions Trust the first two phases of its Garrick industrial centre development, north of Staples Corner adjacent to Edgware Road and close to Brent Cross Shopping Centre. Consideration was of the order of £7m.

● CHARTERHOUSE DEVELOPMENT: A consortium by Charterhouse Development, the development capital offshoot of Charterhouse J. Rothschild, has agreed in principle to purchase the magnets business of BOC.

● RIO ALGOM: Net earnings for 1983 jumped from \$17.81m (Canadian) to \$51.14m (about £27.6m). Revenue rose from \$760.2m to \$779.7m.

BARCLAYS 1983

Barclays well placed as economic recovery gathers speed.

The Chairman, Sir Timothy Bevan, said today: I am pleased to report that pre-tax profits at £557m were 12½% ahead of 1982.

Growth in underlying trading results has been good, particularly in our international division where there has been a strong recovery. These results have been achieved in spite of a continuing high level of provisions reflecting specific and general problems experienced by borrowers in some sectors at home and abroad.

However, our results after tax and minorities are 12% lower than last year mainly due to a higher tax charge, in part reflecting lower leasing activity. We are proposing to maintain our policy of dividend growth but at a lower level of 9%.

The world's financial and economic difficulties have called for banks to reinforce their capital

adequacy and during 1983 we increased our capital resources by over £700m through profit retentions and loan capital issues. As economic recovery gathers speed in the UK and overseas, Barclays is well placed to continue to play its part in supporting investment in industry and financing exports.

The planned merger of Barclays Bank PLC and Barclays Bank International which, subject to Parliamentary legislation, will take place on 1st January 1985, will further strengthen the Group as a major British force in increasingly competitive world banking.

Timothy Bevan

Sir Timothy Bevan, Chairman of Barclays Bank PLC

5th March 1984

CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1983 (Historic cost basis)

The Directors of Barclays Bank PLC report the following Group results for the year ended 31st December 1983:

Operating profit

Share of profit of associated companies.....

Total Group profit

Interest on loan capital.....

Profit before taxation

Taxation.....

Profit after taxation

Profit attributable to minority interests in subsidiary companies.....

Profit attributable to members of Barclays Bank PLC.....

Dividends:

Interim.....

Proposed final.....

Profit retained

Earnings per £1 Ordinary stock.....

Dividends per £1 Ordinary stock.....

	1983 £m	1982 £m
Operating profit	582	487
Share of profit of associated companies	77	75
Total Group profit	659	562
Interest on loan capital	102	67
Profit before taxation	557	495
Taxation	220	131
Profit after taxation	337	364
Profit attributable to minority interests in subsidiary companies	48	35
Profit attributable to members of Barclays Bank PLC	289	329
Dividends:		
Interim	39	37
Proposed final	43	38
Profit retained	82	75
Earnings per £1 Ordinary stock	207	254
Dividends per £1 Ordinary stock	84.8p	96.7p
	24.0p	22.0p

The information given in this preliminary announcement does not comprise full accounts within the meaning of Section 11 Companies Act 1981. Full accounts containing an unqualified report given by the auditors will be published on 29th March 1984, and copies will be delivered to the Registrar of Companies in accordance with Section 1 Companies Act 1976.



BARCLAYS

54 LOMBARD STREET, LONDON EC3P 3AH

150 من الأصل

However, there is more to Hanson Trust than Lord Hanson. Personal emotional attachments to particular businesses

Hanson might have feared an encroachment on its Butterley business by London Brick's

Mr Martin Taylor, another

The acquisition of London Brick has at last given the company the desired place in the Stock Exchange's old elite.

From now on Hanson's gaze turns back to the United States which, after the London Brick takeover, is less than half its business once more.

.....

[illegible]

Satellite TV: has the BBC lost its way?

This week yet another round of discussions will take place between the parties involved in the British direct broadcasting by satellite (DBS) project. But all the partners in the venture - the Government, the BBC and IBA - have lost their way.

First the Government. It has approached satellite television broadcasting from an industrial direction and not a broadcasting one. The original satellite was to have been launched in 1986, to be built by a consortium of British Aerospace, British Telecom and GEC-Marconi and carry two DBS channels for the BBC. Last year that project was rejected by the BBC, a decision which shocked and frightened the proponents of the satellite in government. The £350m space venture was to provide a stimulus to the British aerospace and electronics industries.

But since last year government, particularly those on the industrial front, have been in blind panic in an attempt to keep the satellite project alive in the face of increasing criticism that the design of the spacecraft is unnecessarily sophisticated and as a consequence too expensive.

The new round of talks between the three parties is the latest attempt to save the project by forming a joint venture which would include the BBC in partnership with the IBA (the authority is to have the power to grant early next year franchise for two DBS channels).

The Government has only itself to blame in its pursuit of a policy which has not addressed itself to the real questions about satellite broadcasting. Within a decade there will be a plethora of satellites over Europe whether they be high powered,

allowing pictures to be received through an antenna directly at home, or those with lower power which can beam their pictures to cable television operators on the ground who in turn carry them to their subscribers.

Ireland, France and Luxembourg have all been allocated satellite frequencies. Television programmes beamed from their satellites will be able to be received in Britain. These will be high powered DBS satellites which would compete directly with the British BBC/IBA project. The Government has ignored these dangers.

It also seems to believe that there is little need to impose broadcasting standards on the owners of satellite channels. That is ludicrous. It cannot have a rigid code of practice for balance of programming on its terrestrial broadcasting and allow satellite channels to be unbridled.

Last week Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, addressing delegates to a cable and satellite conference sponsored by *The Financial Times* said: "The object of UK Government policy in this field, as indeed it is in many others, is in the simple phrase the creation of opportunity and the removal of obstacles. To open doors, to encourage those with interest and enterprise to go through them and explore, for their benefit and that of others."

The policy is indeed simple to the extent of being naive. The Government cannot stand back and not focus on the correct questions. The policy that is required is a broadcasting one. Let's examine why the BBC is going into satellite.

Alasdair Milne, the Director General of the BBC, addressed the same

conference as the Home Secretary. He claimed that the BBC satellite was necessary as a vehicle for providing more television programming and will be needed as a means of transmission when high resolution television (1125 lines) arrives.

He said: "Eventually, transmission via satellites will become the orthodox method of transmitting broadcasting signals. Quite apart from the question of whether the BBC should offer additional networks or not, it would be a dereliction of broadcasting duty if we did not introduce a technology that bids fair to replace the means we use now."

Neither of these reasons is good enough for the BBC to justify going into DBS now. It should take a different view to satellite than has

sources of television material, some made specifically for cable and satellite?

Alasdair Milne in his speech highlighted the famine of good programming. He said: "During the first six months of last year 196 films were passed by the British Board of Censors for United Kingdom Certificates."

"About half of these films were in the English language. Of all the films passed only 28 per cent (that is 55 films) were awarded either a 'U' or a 'PG' certificate. No fewer than 46 per cent were in the 18 or restricted club 18 category. So it can't be said that there is an abundance of first-run feature films to which, even on a liberal interpretation of ethical and moral values, no severe objection could be made."

The BBC doesn't need to run its own channel to be heavily involved in satellite. The owners of DBS channels and others operating satellite services to cable networks will be desperate for good programming. The BBC could sell to them and not be burdened with marketing of its own channel. The borrowings to finance the project (£170m in capital plus an estimated £180m in operational costs over the seven-year life of the satellite) and having to compete with other satellites and cable networks which could have bought its programming.

But what about its plans for replacing the terrestrial network by a satellite one? The BBC does not need to rush, there will be dozens of manufacturers and operators of satellites only too pleased to do business when that day arrives. Also, when the transmissions of the normal BBC television pictures are made by

satellite and the terrestrial network is replaced by a spacecraft, the economics of a satellite project will favourably alter. That is the time when the BBC should consider operating its own satellite, not before.

Finally the IBA. The BBC is now considering a partnership with the IBA/Independent Television Companies. The proposal being considered by the partners is a four channel joint satellite project. One channel would be dedicated to the BBC, one to the IBA, one would be shared while another would act as a backup in the event of failure.

But why have the Independent Television Companies been involved in the satellite discussions? The IBA will be empowered under the Cable and Broadcasting Act, presently making its way through Parliament, to award commercial franchises for satellite. Those were not intended to be the property of the Independent television companies but were supposed to be placed on open tender. Not only have the companies become involved in the satellite discussions but have brazenly asked for an extension to their terrestrial franchises as their price for partnership.

It is obvious to the proponents of independent broadcasting that the commercial satellite channels should not be controlled by the existing commercial companies. It is not in the interest of broadcasting to have the commercial terrestrial and satellite channels owned by the same groups. Nor is it in the interest of broadcasting to have DBS controlled by the duopoly of the BBC and the existing independent companies. That is the question the IBA must address this week.

THE WEEK

Bill Johnstone

been the case with its terrestrial broadcasts.

The BBC, although it has not fully commercially exploited its programme-making assets to the full, could be a primary source of good programming - drama, light entertainment, current affairs and specially made feature films. There will be a dearth of good quality product for a satellite and cable channels in the United Kingdom, the rest of Europe and the United States. Even the BBC if it ran its own satellite channel would have to buy much from other sources. So why not reverse the role and become one of the principal



Stanley Kanney: 50,000 pictures in one disc

Pick a picture in an instant

Photography as Art may be an unlikely candidate for computerising, but The Image Bank, a worldwide photographic agency has plans in that direction.

With 24 offices it handles an average of six to seven thousand high quality colour transparencies each week, sending many of them from its New York headquarters to its international network of offices where they are in demand by advertising agencies and magazines, writes Geoffrey Ellis.

At present thousands of images are examined with a magnifying glass but soon this could change.

For three years secret research has been going on in New York, led by Stanley Kanney, the co-founder of the company, to enable a comprehensive selection of single images to be stored and accessed on video disc. The special software needed has now been fully developed and the scheme is soon to become operational with up to six video disc players due to be installed

in London by the middle of the year.

Each disc will be capable of storing up to 50,000 single colour images, and by using the new software, a researcher, by answering a series of involved questions based on the familiar "branch" formula, will be led to what he needs.

The benefits of this operation will be enormous both to The Image Bank, who will be able to provide a more comprehensive catalogue of pictures without proportionate growth of space, and for the client who will be able to lease a player, plus a selection of discs from the library and browse through them while sitting in his own office, calling up to have the required picture delivered.

Will the next step be to increase the sophistication of the system to allow the transfer of material from disc to user in one step? With their dedication to the use of new techniques, it cannot be too long before The Image Bank begins exploring this further innovation.

Why Ben speaks to his computer

By Frank Brown

Ben Smith has been bitten by the computer bug. So much so, he can't stop talking to it, and talking about it. Ben runs his own small real-estate business on the outskirts of San Francisco, and knew little about computers until he bought one just before Christmas to help him and his secretary wife out with his paperwork.

"As we didn't know what was on the market, we decided to go to a computer exhibition to see what was available," he recalls. "And I saw this machine where you simply talked to it, like I'm talking now, and it did what you wanted it to do instantly."

"It has a speech command system which will pick out key words or phrases from continuous speech, and carries out the commands associated with those words," he said. "You can train it to respond to anything you say, and to do any task you want when it hears that word or phrase."

"It's great for dictating letters. I simply say, 'I want to write to Mrs D. Jones, for example, and when it hears 'writes', it automatically goes into letter writing mode, and when it hears 'Mrs D. Jones', it instantly displays the letter format with Mrs Jones's address at the top, plus the date, our file reference for Mrs Jones, and 'Dear Mrs Jones' underneath."

"I can then either dictate text, or say words which call up standard paragraphs or complete standard letters, and which again appear on screen instantly - fully personalised where necessary. Thus some letters can be produced and printed literally within seconds."

"It has saved so much time and correspondence and paperwork that my wife Donna now helps me on the selling side of the business," he said.

"It has also saved time and money managing my telephone," he added. "The speech facility has effectively converted the phone into a sophisticated speakerphone. Making a call is simply a matter of talking to the computer - no lifting the receiver and dialling - the computer does it all."

"It stores and retrieves my important numbers just like a memory phone, and not only dials calls, but also automatically recalls busy numbers. It will also place calls at specific times throughout the day, and when there is no one in the office, it will answer and record calls just like an answering machine."

"Not only that, it keeps track

of my personal calendar; it stores a year's worth of appointments, and reminds me about them just like a good executive secretary."

The machine that keeps Ben talking is the Texas Instruments Professional personal business computer fitted with the new speech command and telephone management systems. These are printed circuit boards which simply plug into the back of the machine.

The speech command board is now available in Britain but the telephone management board is currently undergoing BSI approval, and is unlikely to be on the market here before the end of this year.

New speech signal chip

The secret behind these two boards is a new speech signal processing chip developed by TI which incorporates a high-speed 32-bit computer and speech processing software containing TI developed algorithms that speed up speech encoding and speech recognition process.

The software's speech encoding efficiency is such that the resultant code is 50 times more compact than conventional methods, and is therefore much faster, the company claims. It also requires considerably less memory space.

Thus the new chip and the software have considerable application potential. The device has already been taken up by other computer firms who are using it to develop speech processing systems of their own.

In addition, engineers at the company's regional technology centre in Bedford are working on a variety of applications in conjunction with a number of industrial companies and manufacturers of consumer products.

Using the new chip, the centre has developed a portable speech analysis system which helps accelerate the development of speech-input and speech-output systems. The portable unit also simplifies the analysis and encoding of noise generated by machinery such as engines and machine tools, thereby enabling the development of noise-monitoring systems that provide an early warning of impending mechanical failure.

The chip itself costs about £60, but will be cheaper by the end of the year, a Texas Instruments spokesman said.

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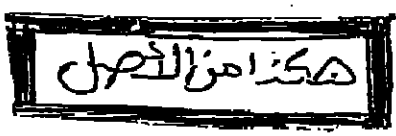
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HEWLETT
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HP 150 at a Glance. User Memory: 256K 640K bytes. Operating System: MS-DOS 2.11. Microprocessor: 16-bit, Intel 80386. Permanent Memory: (ROM) 160K bytes. Diagnostics: Power-on self-test. Display Screen: Touch-sensitive, green phosphor, 60 characters x 27 lines, 9x14 dot character matrix. Upper and lower case. Simultaneous text and graphics capability. 390x512 graphics resolution. 100% character and symbols in ROM. Keyboard: 107 keys (total), 81 keys (functional), 10-key numeric pad, 12 function keys (8 screen-labelled). Compact Size: 21 sq. ft. desktop space. Communications: 2 RS-232C ports. HP 150 (JEE 438) Built in Up to 19,200 bits per second DSN network link. Peripherals: Choice of printers (including optional internal printer), plotters, 3.5" floppy drives (264K bytes formatted), Winchester hard discs (5 and 15 Mbytes).

*MS-DOS is a trademark of Microsoft Corporation.



Computer Appointments

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**ACORN
COMPUTER**

Another price cut coming

One of the first IBM Personal Computer "lookalikes", the British-made CAL-PC, has been so successful that its price has been cut by more than 25 per cent. Launched by Computer Associates last year at £1495, the CAL-PC is now down to £1195. With a simple desktop printer, a basic system would come out at about £1340.

The price reductions have become possible through the increasing volume of sales we have achieved, says Ian Skinner, CAL chairman. Another factor has been the operating economies which have been obtained since CAL was incorporated last December into the CPU Computer group. The company now works closely with LSI Computers, which introduced its Octopus personal computer last autumn.

More than 2000 CAL-PCs have been sold, with some major names among the buyers, including the Manpower Services Commission, the City of Birmingham (the UK's second largest local authority), Glyndwr and British Aerospace. The CAL-PC has both 8-bit and 16-bit processors. There are versions with 5 Mbytes and 10 Mbyte storage, and built-in Winchester disks up to 20 Mbytes are optional. There are also multi-user versions, and the machine has a fast networking facility.

As an aid to increased productivity and profits, management consultants Deloitte Haskins & Sells have just released a new system, CostPlan. Running on a standard IBM PC, it was originally developed for an industrial client in the textile industry. CostPlan claims to calculate costs by using a "bill of resources" in which materials, labour costs and energy requirements are inputted and then project how changes in any of these fields can effect costs and profits.

The first permanent computer application showroom dedicated to a single industry opens in London tomorrow. Allied at the construction industry, Britain's largest single industrial market, the new Building Computer Centre, is sited in the Building Centre, off Tottenham Court Road, London.

It will provide a showcase for the best in hardware, peripherals and software applications, with demonstrations running on many popular business machines.

About 200,000 people visit the Building Centre each year as an information centre, and this new venture will provide a welcome addition to the amount of information available to the trade.

COMPUTER BRIEFING

An invasion of top quality American software will be launched on the UK Market next month when a new label, US Gold, makes its debut. Centre Soft one of this country's leading distributors, through a complex series of licensing deals have reached agreement with some of the top US producers, allowing them to sell the games, mainly for the Commodore 64, at under £10, almost one third of the price now being charged for imports. Beach Head, a game utilising the full potential of the 64, one of the hits at the recent LET trade show, is amongst the first to be released.

A major Software forum, organized by Digital Research, takes place in London this Thursday. It will discuss latest developments in this field, and look at networking, windowing, Concurrent CP/M and issues of compatibility.

Development of electronics will be a priority for China over the next 20 years, according to the minister responsible for that industry.

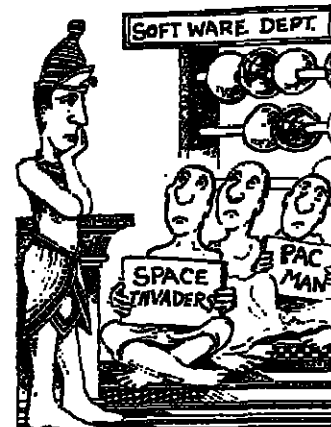
Jiang Zemin told the English-Language newspaper China Daily that both Shanghai in the Yangtze delta and the southern province of Guangdong had decided to make electronics a focal point of their economies. The minister added that value of electronics production in China rose by 27 per cent last year.

A low-cost communications package which can turn a personal computer into an intelligent workstation is now being marketed by CompuShack Ltd. The London-based firm has reached an agreement with Sobrook Corporation of New Orleans to handle the package, which is for use on the IBM PC and IBM-compatible personal computers.

CompuShack has adopted the package primarily for the Tava PC, for which the company is exclusive distributor in Europe. Known as "TCP" - Tava Communications Package - the new product will give PCs access to such communications applications as electronic mail, telex, on-line data base, micro-to-host and micro-to-micro transfers.

The cost is far lower than most other systems on the market. For £2,595 the buyer can have the TCP package with a DeCom Buzzbox modem, a 128K Tava PC, two floppy disk drives, a monitor, printer, and CP/M 86 operating system. TCP on its own, with the modem, costs £209.

The first silicon chip with rectifier diodes produced entirely on the basis of Brazilian technology has just been put on the market. It has been designed for



use in battery chargers, welding machines, direct current sources and in cases of electric traction problems.

In a second stage of the operation, the manufacturer, Aegis Tecnologia em Dispositivos Semicondutores de Sao Paulo will produce high-frequency diodes and a multiple-usage chip for the current inflow of keypad computer systems.

The major technical difficulty, the control of the ideal thermal point of diffusion on layers of pure silicon, has been overcome. This is now done at temperatures of up to 1,400°C but previously had only been achieved in Brazil in specialized laboratories.

What was lacking was the technology needed to do this on a commercial scale. Previously, the only company to do this was Semikron Sudamericana Comercio e Industria de Semicondutores which used technology imported from its German parent, Aegis. It has invested almost £1m to start production of the new chip industrially.

Contributors: Geoffrey Ellis, Roger Woolnough and Mark Stone.

UK events

OEM Only Conference, Hilton Hotel, London W1, March 7
Computer Trade Show, Wembley Conference Centre, Middlesex, March 13-15
Scottish Computer Show and Conference, Holiday Inn, Glasgow, March 13-15
Microcomputer Applications Workshop, Computer Laboratory, Liverpool University, March 26-27
Microcomputer Networks Workshop, Computer Laboratory, March 27-28
Electron & BBC Micro User Show, New Horticultural Hall, Westminster, London, March 29-April 3-5
Artificial Intelligence Seminar, City University, London, April 7-8

Sir Frederick Osborn School Computer Fair, Sir Frederick Osborn School, Welwyn Garden City, April 8
COMPEC WALS, Cardiff University, April 10-12
Computers for Builders Exhibition, Cavendish Conference Centre, 82 New Cavendish Street, London W1, April 12
Computers in Instrumentation Exhibition, Earls Court, April 16-18

Personal Computer Show, Sydney, Australia, March 14-17
International Business Equipment & Computer Show, Singapore, March 13-17
Videotex '84, Hyatt Regency, Chicago, April 16-18

Overseas

Compiled by Personal Computer News

Watch out for the friendly icon

By David Hewson

If I were asked for one word to engrave upon the mind of the home computer user during 1984, it would be this: *friendly*. Look it up in Collins and, in the third sentence, you will read "a symbol resembling or analogous to the thing it represents," and I can think of no better explanation.

The icon is, on one level, a tool of incomparable ease for the fledgling computer user, and, on another, an interesting parable about the direction the chip business may take in the future. If you want to see it in action, simply search out the nearest Lisa, Apple's expensive wonder machine, and you will

know what I mean. The icon is meant to be the ultimate step in what the computer manufacturers term "user friendliness" - a euphemism which may be accurately translated as the ability to be used by people who haven't the faintest clue of what a computer is about.

In the beginning, to print an item written on a screen one had to add a set of instructions. Later, one pressed a button and the computer would obediently bring to computer users.

No, icons are important, not in themselves, but because they represent an investment on the part of computer manufacturers in comprehension at the expense of plain storage power. They are, if you like, one of the first steps down the road towards selling computers to people who do not give a damn how the system works so long as it does.

This year will see the memories of home computers shoot way beyond the 64K mark, and there is a rather glibbie gut feeling in some quarters that memory size is a little bit like a superior filing software proves. The shrewdly written software of a 16K machine may be infinitely superior to a clumsily produced 64K equivalent even if the latter has the ability, once programmed, to handle a greater number of files.

When one looks, for instance, at the vast memory promised for the new Sinclair QL, one can only ask: why? And the answer must be, not simply to make the machine capable of storing more information. There are plenty of machines capable of that already around, albeit at better prices than Sinclair's.

In reality, a colossal amount of extra memory is pretty useless to the average user unless it makes the task in hand easier. And that is why I believe we have only seen the beginnings of the icon.

Make no mistake: for the average computer manufacturer, that requires a sea change in his business philosophy if he is to sell to the new generation of computer users. The day of other hand, has a very neat filing program which mimics the appearance of the filing cabinet, and that manages the way of specialist knowledge run on a 16K machine, which, on paper at least, carries a quarter of the memory of the Commodore.

So what happens with an icon system? Well, instead of asking the conventional questions, such as do you want to pull out an item on disk, look at the directory, print, or save something you have written, you are faced with a series of familiar pictures - a typewriter, a filing cabinet, a printer, or an index - which short circuit the thought process.

To save a file, or read one which already exists, one chooses the option marked with a filing cabinet. By relating the computer's operations to images for everyday objects, the strangeness of working on an electronic machine is virtually eliminated.

The joys of icons are known only to those who have used them, and, oddly enough, they bear little relation to the power of the machine running the relevant programmes.

For example, the Commodore 64 is noticeably short of a filing program in the lower end of the software market which uses anything but a bare screen for its format. Atari, on the other hand, has a very neat filing program which mimics the appearance of the filing cabinet, and that manages the way of specialist knowledge run on a 16K machine, which, on paper at least, carries a quarter of the memory of the Commodore.

Make no mistake: for the average computer manufacturer, that requires a sea change in his business philosophy if he is to sell to the new generation of computer users. The day of other hand, has a very neat filing program which mimics the appearance of the filing cabinet, and that manages the way of specialist knowledge run on a 16K machine, which, on paper at least, carries a quarter of the memory of the Commodore.

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Andrew Hallidie: London-born engineer and inventor of San Francisco's famous cable-car system.

San Francisco is a magnificent city, built on forty or so undulating hills. Taking a trip in a cable-car around the city and its environs rather resembles a ride on a roller coaster.

The cable-car was the brainchild of a young English immigrant, Andrew Hallidie. Born in London, he studied as an engineer and joined the wire rope manufacturing industry. One day in 1869, while walking through the streets of San Francisco, he saw a sight which shocked and sickened him.

A drover was forcing his team of four horses, drawing a heavily laden cart, up a steep cobbled hill. One of the horses missed its footing, stumbled and fell. The rest of the team, unable to bear the weight of the fallen horse and cart, also collapsed and the end result was an avalanche of horses and cart tumbling down the steep hill.

Disgusted by the vile exploitation of the animals, Hallidie vowed to take steps to prevent further tragedies. Four years later, in August 1873, Hallidie's first cable-car made its maiden voyage down Nob Hill's notorious east decline. It was an unmitigated success. Recognition of the cable-car's importance was accorded by the US Government in 1964 when it was designated a historic landmark, and the rolling stock was preserved for posterity.

America is still a land of opportunity and not least for Computer Professionals. British expertise has earned international respect and is highly sought after in the U.S.A. where computer technology is among the most sophisticated in the world.

This is one of the reasons why our client, one of America's most eminent and long-established software houses, wishes to appoint a number of experienced computer people to undertake problem-solving responsibilities throughout the country.

The company provides a wide-ranging analysis, design and programming service to blue chip clients in all strata of industry - financial, brokerage, utilities, manufacturing, distribution and services. It already employs over 500 technical staff and has an annual turnover of around \$32 million which continues to grow.

We cannot sufficiently emphasize the importance of these new appointments. As a successful applicant, your importance is reflected in the salary and benefit package. The salaries offered fall within a range of £17,500 to £40,000 pa. Benefits include medical, dental, life and disability insurance, paid overtime, unlimited tuition reimbursement, a variety of assignments and locations from New York to San Francisco and all points in between. Relocation assistance will be given including the provision of visas and work permits.

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Perhaps one of the most important elements of this entire proposition is the opportunity for advanced training that our client offers. In-house training comprises 20 different courses which run parallel to a career development programme tailored to individual aims and needs.

The care of its employees is paramount to our client - a philosophy which has paid dividends, both for the client and the employee. British professionals are rising further and further up the ladder within this company - testament to the fact that you don't have to be American to succeed in America!

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People/John Angel of Percom



John Angel: blue-chip names

Ending a clerical chore

By Roger Woolnough

When he invested in one of the earliest BBC microcomputers to use as a hobby, John Angel had no idea it would launch him into a new business.

A solicitor who specializes in industrial relations, Angel was well aware that personnel departments needed help, and had thought that computers might provide it. But the power of the micro was a revelation.

Generally personnel departments have a low priority in organizations, he explains. "I saw that the micro could provide a computerized personnel system which the department could afford."

This was early in 1982, and Angel realised that an opportunity to start computerizing the personnel function was fast approaching. In April 1983 new legislation was to come in on statutory sick pay, and companies would be looking for ways to administer it.

With no time to waste he contacted a friend, Richard Coon, a chartered accountant who had been UK financial controller of Rank Xerox. The timing was right as part of a cost-cutting exercise, Rank Xerox was encouraging managers to set up their own

businesses in return for consultancy work two days a week.

Coon joined forces with Angel and also involved Geoff Lancashire, who had been information services manager at Rank Xerox. In June 1982 the three men formed Percom Ltd, to develop and market personnel management systems for microcomputers.

"I had no computer knowledge other than playing around with the BBC micro," Angel admits. He specified the product, and Lancashire organized the programming. Percom was able to demonstrate its statutory sick pay and absence control system in November 1982 - the first company to do so, Angel believes.

Since then it has made its mark. Blue-chip names using the software include BP Chemicals, Electrolux, Merrill Lynch, and Seatchi & Seatchi.

To John Angel, this is just the start. With backing from the British Technology Group, Percom is broadening its range with a modular system for personnel management. This will build on personnel records to computerize such areas as recruitment and selection,

manpower planning, occupational health, and salary modelling.

"The personnel function is inefficient because it is a clerical-intensive activity," Angel says. "Personnel departments spend all their time trying to keep up with legislation. The only other thing they have time for is 'firefighting'."

But by providing computer programs to do much of the manual work, personnel staff will be able to tackle the real problems. "For the first time," Angel believes, "personnel managers can see themselves managing their functions, because they will have all the data on hand."

As a specialist in industrial relations law who has acted for both sides, John Angel believes the computer can have far-reaching effects. The better informed the personnel department is, the better it will be for industrial relations.

"I don't think Percom alone will do that," he said, "but we are providing a system which is within the budget of a personnel department. There is no excuse not to computerize."



There has been a heavy response to our National Microcomputer Challenge competition, and as the regional judges set about naming regional winners, some interesting points have emerged.

Applications ranged from the totally predictable, through to entirely new concepts of using the micro. They touched on subjects as diverse as medicine, social welfare, commerce, education, transport, domestic and leisure.

There appeared to be a comprehensive spread of ages, with 10-year-olds jostling for consideration alongside those of 70-plus. At this stage a high proportion of entrants appear to be male.

The regional judges start work this week, and hope to complete in time to allow us to announce the 10 winners in the first section in *The Times* of Tuesday, March 20.

The British Computer Society have announced their regional representatives on the judging panel, they are: Representative Mr G. McDermid, Mr J. K. Nix, Mr S. Burness, Dr Yamasakakis, Mr E. J. Bowcock, Mr E. Stuart, Dr P. H. Maber, Dr R. Neak, Mr T. Vickers. Regions: Scotland, Northern Ireland and North West, North East, Yorkshire and Humberside, Midlands, Wales, South West, Home Counties North, Home Counties South, Greater London.

London fair

Early plans announced by the London Festival of Computing organizers show that a wide range of interests are to be catered for this year in the festival sponsored by Prism Technology.

The aim of the festival is to promote awareness amongst Londoners in the use of computers in the community.

The Computer Fair, at Central Hall, Westminster, will be the highlight of the festival, and the winner of *The Times* Computer Challenge will be announced to coincide with the festival which runs from April 5 until April 23.

Consent crucial issue in sentence

Regina v Courtie

Before Lord Diplock, Lord Fraser of Tullybelton, Lord Scarman, Lord Roskill and Lord Bridge (Speeches delivered March 1)

Section 12(1) of the Sexual Offences Act 1956, by reason of the provisions of sections 1 and 3 of the Sexual Offences Act 1967 contained more than one offence of buggery. Consequently the House of Lords unanimously allowed the appeal against sentence of a man imprisoned on the basis of an offence carrying a maximum term of 10 years who should have been sentenced on the basis of an offence with a five-year maximum sentence.

The appeal was brought by Thomas Courtie, aged 38, against the dismissal by the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Watkins, Mrs Justice Hailbron and Sir John Thompson) of his appeal from a three-year sentence passed at the Crown Court (Judge Bennett, QC) on his plea of guilty to a count which charged that he committed buggery with a male person aged 19.

The trial judge, who had refused an application by the prosecution after plea to add a count charging absence of consent by the other man, decided that he and the two justices sitting with him would determine, as they did, whether or not the offence was committed with consent, and then passed sentence on the basis of absence of consent.

Section 12(1) of the 1956 Act provides: "It is felony for a person to commit buggery with another person or with an animal."

Section 16(1) of the 1967 Act provides: "When in any proceedings it is charged that a homosexual act is an offence the prosecutor shall have the burden of proving that the act was done otherwise than with the consent of the parties..."

Section 3(1), which amends the 1956 Act provisions as to punishment, provides: "The maximum term of imprisonment for buggery with another man over the age of 16 shall be: (a) imprisonment for 10 years except where the offence is committed otherwise than with consent; and (b) for 5 years if the accused is over the age of 21 and the other man is under that age, but otherwise two years..."

Mr Barry Mortimer, QC and Mr D P Hunt for the appellant; Mr

Harry Ognall, QC and Mr R C Andrews for the Crown.

LORD DIPLOCK, with whose speech Lord Roskill and Lord Bridge agreed, said that the appeal raised two questions involving basic principles of English criminal law.

To the substantive principle was applied the metaphor in *Woolmington v Director of Public Prosecutions* ([1935] AC 462): "the one golden thread that is always to be seen throughout the web of English criminal law" that an accused person could not be convicted of an offence with which he was charged unless it had been established by the prosecution that each one of the factual ingredients, which were included in the legal definition of that offence, was present in the case that had been brought against him by the prosecution.

In the absence of an informed and unequivocal plea of guilty, the prosecution, if it was to obtain a conviction for the specific offence charged, had to prove to the satisfaction (beyond reasonable doubt) of the person or persons in whom was vested the function of trying facts, that each and every factual ingredient of that offence existed in the case of the accused.

The factual ingredients of every criminal offence consisted of the conduct of the accused and his state of mind at the time of that conduct - expressions used in preference to *actus reus* and *mens rea* in view of *R v Miller* ([1963] 2 AC 161, 174).

If there had not been an informed and unequivocal plea of guilty, the question which the jury had to decide was whether the specific factual ingredient of the offence charged (or of any lesser offence of which he might be convicted) could be inferred on him if the existence of that particular factual ingredient was not established. Parliament had thereby created two distinct offences, which were created did so by using language which treated them as being different species of a single genus of offence, or by using language which treated them as separate offences unrelated to one another.

The draftsman of sections 1 and 3 of the 1967 Act had adopted the former method.

In the particulars of offence in the instant case there was no allegation that the other man did not consent;

the appellant committed buggery with a named man, a male person under the age of 21 years, namely the age of 19 years. To that offence he had pleaded guilty.

The effect of section 1 (1), (2), (5), (7) and section 3 (1), (3), (4) of the 1967 Act on section 12(1) of the 1956 Act was that the 1967 Act created a number of specific offences for which the maximum punishment prescribed varied on a descending scale from imprisonment for life, through imprisonment for 10 years, imprisonment for five years down to imprisonment for two years according to the existence or absence of particular factual ingredients.

Thus, buggery with a boy under the age of 16 was a life offence, whether committed in private or public and with or without the boy's consent. Buggery with a man 16 years or over without his consent was a 10-year offence whether committed in private or in public, but it became a five-year offence if the accused was an adult and the other party was 16 to 20 years old and consented to the act.

If the accused himself was not yet an adult the offence with a consented 16-to-20 year old was reduced to a two-year offence. Buggery committed otherwise than in private between adults both of whom consented to it was a two-year offence on the part of each of them.

Where a statute provided that an accused person's liability to have inflicted on him a maximum punishment which if the prosecution succeeded in establishing the existence in the case of a particular factual ingredient, was greater than the maximum punishment that could be inflicted on him if the existence of that particular factual ingredient was not established, Parliament had thereby created two distinct offences, which were created did so by using language which treated them as being different species of a single genus of offence, or by using language which treated them as separate offences unrelated to one another.

The draftsman of sections 1 and 3 of the 1967 Act had adopted the former method.

In the particulars of offence in the instant case there was no allegation that the other man did not consent;

so the only factual ingredients of the offence that the appellant was charged with having committed were the ingredients necessary for a five-year offence.

There was no mention of the additional factual ingredient, absence of consent by the other man, which it would have been necessary for the prosecution to establish in order to convert the five-year offence into the 10-year offence.

It followed that the only offence that the prosecution established by the appellant's plea of guilty was that he committed a five-year offence. Since the sentence passed on him by the judge was three years and thus within the five-year maximum, the appeal would never have come to the House had it not been for the way in which the case was dealt with by the judge after plea.

In taking upon himself (and the two justices) the function of deciding that there existed in the case against the appellant a necessary factual ingredient of the 10-year offence which he had been sentenced, although he had never admitted the existence of that factual ingredient by his plea of guilty on arraignment to a lesser five-year offence which did not require the existence of that factual ingredient, the judge was acting contrary to the basic principle of English criminal law - that for the jury alone were the facts.

The certified question was whether section 12(1) of the 1956 Act, by reason of the provisions of section 3(1) of the 1967 Act, contained more than one offence. To that question Lord Roskill replied: "Yes".

Although he would substitute for the reference to section 3(1), a reference to sections 1 and 3.

It followed that, having been sentenced on the basis that he had committed a 10-year offence, whereas he should have been sentenced for a five-year offence only, the appellant's sentence had to be allowed. A sentence would be substituted that would result in his period of parole, on which he had been released, being terminated forthwith together with his liability to be recalled to imprisonment.

Solicitors: Lee, Bolton & Lee, for Max Gold & Co, Hull; Sharpe, Pritchard & Co for Mr Leslie M. Bell, Hull.

Enforcing foreign arbitration award

Minister of Public Works of the Government of the State of Kuwait v Sir Frederick Snow & Partners

Before Lord Fraser of Tullybelton, Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook and Lord Templeman (Speeches delivered March 1)

A foreign arbitral award qualified as a "convention award" for the purposes of the Arbitration Act 1975 if the state in which it was made had become a party to the New York Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards by the date on which proceedings to enforce the award were begun, even though it was not such a party at the date when the award was made.

The House of Lords held, dismissing an appeal by the defendants, Sir Frederick Snow & Partners, from a judgment dated March 17, 1983 of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Stephenson, Lord Justice Fox and Lord Justice Kerr) ([1983] 1 WLR 818), allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, the Minister of Public Works of the Government of the State of Kuwait from a decision of Mr Justice Mocatta ([1981] 1 Lloyd's Rep 656) given on February 19, 1981.

Section 7 of the Arbitration Act 1975 provides: "(1) In this Act... 'convention award' means an award made in pursuance of an arbitration agreement in the territory of a state, or by a party to the New York Convention..."

Mr Desmond Wright, QC and Mr Nicholas Dennis for the defendants; Mr Bernard Rice, QC and Mr John Tracy Kelly for the plaintiff.

LORD BRANDON said that the award in regard to which the appeal arose was made by a Kuwaiti arbitrator in Kuwait on November 15, 1973 in respect of disputes arising out of a contract made in 1958 and relating to the construction of an international airport in Kuwait.

The parties to the contract were the Government of Kuwait and a British firm of civil engineering consultants. The award required the payment by the defendants to the plaintiff of a sum which, with interest up to 1979 only, amounted to over £1 million.

Proceedings to enforce the award in England were begun on March 23, 1979, and it was in those proceedings that the point of construction arose.

The 1975 Act was passed to give effect to the New York Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards. That convention came into being on June 26, 1958, and was signed by 56 states, including Kuwait, together with a large number of other states, was a party to the convention, came into operation.

Therefore, when the award was made in 1973 Kuwait had not yet become a party to the convention, but by March 1979, when the proceedings to enforce the award were begun, Kuwait had done so.

The case for the defendants was that a foreign arbitral award could only qualify as a convention award for the purposes of the 1975 Act if the state in which it was made was already a party to the convention at the date of the award.

Accordingly, the award was not a convention award and could not be enforced by the plaintiff against the defendants under the Act.

The case for the plaintiff was that it was sufficient if the state in which it was made had become a party to the convention by the date when proceedings to enforce the award were begun. Accordingly, the award was a convention award for the purposes of the 1975 Act and was enforceable under it.

Which of these cases should prevail depended upon the true construction of the relevant provisions of the Act.

The dispute was concentrated on the definition of the expression "convention award" contained in section 7(1) of the Act. Since the award plainly came within the first

part of the definition, the dispute was narrowed down further to the meaning to be given to the last part of the definition, namely, "which is a party to the New York Convention".

For the defendants it was contended that that phrase, although it used the present tense in the words "is", referred back to the time when the award was made. The plaintiff contended that the word "is" plainly referred to the time of enforcement.

When the definition of "convention award" in section 7(1) was transposed bodily into sections 2 and 3 of the 1975 Act, it appeared that the use of the present tense in the word "is", must as a matter of construction, signify interpretation of the words used to mean that the phrase related to the time of enforcement and not to any other time.

In particular, if it had been the intention of the legislature that the phrase should relate to the date of the award, then the draftsman would surely have used words which made that intention clear.

The defendants' main argument against that construction was that the courts had always refused to give statutes retrospective effect unless they contained clear words which showed that such effect was intended; that if the phrase in dispute were to be interpreted as relating to the time of enforcement of an award rather than the time of its making the result would be to give the Act retrospective effect; and that there were in the words in the Act showing that such effect was intended.

It was contended that an award made in a foreign state which was not a party to the convention at the time of its making would not be enforceable in the United Kingdom under the Act unless and until that foreign state subsequently became a party to the convention.

While that argument appeared on first presentation to be of considerable force, there were two answers

which showed that it was not well-founded.

First, the presumption against interpreting a statute as giving retrospective effect was based on the assumption that the effect of giving retrospective effect would be to deprive persons of accrued rights and defences.

The result of an award being unenforceable as a convention award under the Act was simply that a person wishing to enforce such an award in the United Kingdom would be unable to do so on an award which at common law, the right to do that being expressly preserved by section 6 of the 1975 Act.

It could not therefore be said that his Lordship's construction of the Act would deprive a person of an award which could not previously have been enforced at all against a person, newly enforceable against him under the Act. The only result was that the award became enforceable by a second and alternative form of procedure.

Section 5(2) and (3) of the Act afforded a wide range of defences to a person against whom an award was sought to be enforced under the Act and those covered the whole field of defences which would be available in a common law action. It could not therefore be said that the effect of his Lordship's construction of the Act took away any accrued rights or defences, and was therefore free from the objection which would exist if it did.

Second, in the phrase "which is party to the... convention" the legislature had shown in clear terms its intention to give the Act retrospective effect.

In his Lordship's view there was no ambiguity in section 7(1) of the Act, but if that was wrong and there was ambiguity, it was possible to resolve it by construing Article III paragraph 1 of the convention which reinforced the view that the construction of the expression "convention award" contained for the defendants was wrong and that contended for by the plaintiff was correct.

Lord Fraser, Lord Bridge and Lord Templeman agreed.

Solicitors: Stakeney's, Charles Russell & Co.

Smuggler of drugs thought it was money

Regina v Taffie

Before Lord Fraser of Tullybelton, Lord Scarman, Lord Roskill, Lord Bridge of Harwich and Lord Brightman (Speeches delivered March 1)

Where the defendant had mistakenly believed that he was bringing currency into the country and that such importation was prohibited, but had in fact been bringing in cannabis resin the importation of which was prohibited, he was not guilty of an offence under section 170 (2) of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979, of being "knowingly concerned in any fraudulent evasion..." (a) of any prohibition...

...in force with respect to the goods...

The House of Lords dismissed an appeal by the Crown from the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) (Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice McCowan and Mr Justice Nolan) ([1983] 1 WLR 827) who had allowed an appeal by the defendant, Paul Desmond Patrick Taffie, from his conviction in the Graysend Crown Court on November 11, 1982.

On February 12, 1982, the defendant drove a car into the green lane of the Sheerness ferry terminal and said that he had nothing to declare. The car was searched, and in the spare tyre were found five packages containing cannabis resin. The defendant was then searched, and a further three packages were found strapped to his back and under his clothing.

He was cautioned by the customs officer and asked if he knew what the substances in the packages were. He replied: "No, I am waiting to find out, because if it is drugs...". The officer asked him: "What did you think was in the packages?" and he replied: "Money".

On his arraignment at the crown court, he pleaded not guilty. The judge, Lord Justice Stephenson, directed the jury to find the defendant guilty if they found that he was knowingly concerned in any fraudulent evasion of any prohibition of the importation of currency into the country which was prohibited by statute.

Those facts were: (a) the defendant had been enlisted by a third party to import into England a substance into England in fraudulent evasion of the prohibition on its importation and had so imported it; (b) the substance had in fact been cannabis; (c) the defendant had mistakenly believed it to be currency; (d) currency had not been the subject of any prohibition; (e) the defendant had mistakenly believed that it was.

The recorder ruled that, on those facts, the jury would have to be directed to convict. The defendant then changed his plea to "guilty" and was sentenced.

The question certified by the Court of Appeal was whether a defendant committed the offence under section 170 (2) where he (a) imported prohibited drugs into the United Kingdom, (b) intended fraudulently to evade a prohibition on importation, but (c) mistakenly believed the goods to be money and not drugs and (d) mistakenly believed that money was the subject of a prohibition.

Mr Anthony Arlidge, QC, and Mr Christopher Aylwin for the Crown; Lord Rawlinson of Ewell, QC, and Mr Roy Devereux Roebuck for the defendant.

LORD SCARMAN said that the Lord Chief Justice had construed section 170 (2) as creating an offence not of absolute liability but as one of which an essential ingredient was a guilty mind.

To be "knowingly concerned" meant, in his judgment, knowledge not only of the existence of a smuggling operation but also that the substance being smuggled into the country was one the importation of which was prohibited by statute.

The respondent had thought that he was concerned in a smuggling operation but had believed that the substance was currency. The importation of currency was not subject to any prohibition.

The Lord Chief Justice had concluded: "He is to be judged against the facts that he believed them to be. Had this indeed been currency and not cannabis, no offence would have been committed. Does it make any difference that the respondent thought wrongly that by clandestinely importing currency he was committing an offence?"

The Crown had submitted that it did. The court had rejected the submission; the respondent's mistake of law could not convert the importation of currency into a criminal offence; and importing currency was what it had to be assumed that the respondent had believed he was doing.

His Lordship found the reasoning of the Lord Chief Justice compelling. He agreed with his construction of section 170(2); and the principle that a man must be judged on the facts as he believed them to be was an accepted principle of the criminal law when the state of a man's mind and his knowledge were ingredients of the offence with which he was charged.

His Lordship also agreed with the Lord Chief Justice that the case differed on its facts from *R v Hennessey* ([1969] 2 QB 567) and *R v Hennessey (Timothy)* ([1978] 68 Cr App R 419). While there could be no doubt that *Hennessey* had been correctly decided, it might be that *Hennessey* would have to be reconsidered in the light of the House's decision in *R v Courtie* ([1983] 1 WLR 827).

The House's decision in *R v Courtie* (The Times March 6, 1984) for the court in *Hennessey* appeared to have paid no regard to the effect of section 26 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 on section 304 of the Customs and Excise Act 1952.

According to the principle enunciated in *Courtie*, it would seem likely that those two sections (the latter contained in section 170 of the 1979 Act) had substituted several offences, where the pro-

hibited goods were controlled drugs and other prohibited imports, for one offence in relation to all prohibited imports that had existed before the 1971 Act had been enacted.

But the point did not arise and his Lordship, therefore, expressed no concluded opinion as to whether the decision in *Hennessey* could stand with that of the House in *Courtie*.

For the reasons given by Lord Chief Justice in the Court of Appeal, with whose judgment his Lordship fully agreed, his Lordship would answer the certified question in the negative and dismiss the appeal.

Lord Fraser, Lord Roskill, Lord Bridge and Lord Brightman agreed.

Solicitors: Solicitors, Customs and Excise; Sebastian Coleman & Co for Panshaw, Porter and Hazlehurst, Birkbehead.

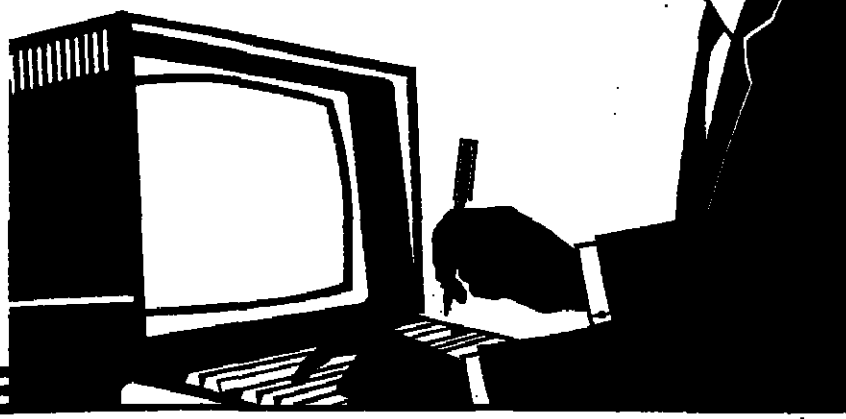
Two years' imprisonment was too severe a sentence for the buggery of a youth of 17 by an older man where it had been committed consensually in private and there was no suggestion that the youth had been thereby corrupted.

The Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) (Lord Justice Griffiths and Sir John Thompson) stated on February 28, substituting a 12 months' sentence.

Correction
In *Aly v Aly* (The Times December 27, 1983) solicitors for the appellant were Brian Lewis & Co, Fleet Street, not Bryan Lewis & Co, Sydenham.

In *Salvation Army v Dewsbury* (The Times March 1, 1984) references to section 154 should read section 151.

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The post provides an opportunity to work with a team of Lawyers having responsibility for the provision of legal services to County Council Committees and departments concerned with the Social Services, Education, Leisure and Personal Functions of the Council. The duties of the post are primarily concerned with giving advice related to the civil responsibilities of the Council and advocacy in that field in the Magistrates' Courts, and, when suitably experienced, in the County Courts and Family Division of the High Court. The successful applicant (male or female) will demonstrate a sound academic background, an aptitude for advocacy, and ability to work under pressure. While a Local Government background is not necessary, a sound understanding of the legislative framework in which the postholder will operate is essential.
Applicants should possess a current driving licence, and an essential car user allowance is payable, subject to yearly review. Disturbance and lodging allowances are payable in approved cases.
Further details concerning the post may be obtained by telephoning Mr D L Spicer on Nottingham (0602) 525620, Ext 3117.
Written applications by letter enclosing a curriculum vitae should be addressed to the Clerk of the County Council and Chief Executive at County Hall, Closing date 28 March. Please quote ref 123.

An Equal Opportunity Employer



Nottinghamshire County Council
County Hall - West Bridgford
Nottingham NG2 7QP

ALLEN DAVIS - Headhunter

PARTNERSHIP POTENTIAL

I specialise in headhunting senior assistants and salaried partners currently earning circa £18,000 p.a. into demanding and rewarding situations. One current assignment is a property related head of commercial litigation for a West End firm. Speed of reaction and absolute confidentiality is assured.

If you would like to meet please phone me:-

Allen Davis, IBC House, 1 Mortimer St, London W1. On 01-637 5277.

ALLEN DAVIS - Headhunter

Senior Solicitor

International Computers Limited, Europe's leading computer company, requires a talented and versatile Solicitor who will report to the Director of Legal and Patent Services based at the headquarters of the ICL Group in Putney, London.

Applicants for this senior post must have a good law degree and at least 10 years' experience as a company/commercial solicitor, either in private practice or in industry, covering a wide variety of commercial and financial agreements, acquisitions, joint ventures, competition law, EEC law and employment law. Preference will be given to candidates who are under 40 and who have legal experience in a high technology environment and/or familiarity with the application of intellectual property law to the information technology industry.

A willingness to work closely with senior management in order to assist them in achieving the ICL Group's objectives is essential.

Salary will be up to £24,000 p.a. plus bonus. Other benefits will include private medical insurance and a company car.

Please send details to John Llewellyn-Davies, Personnel Manager at International Computers Limited, ICL House, Putney London SW15 1SW (telephone: 01-788 7272 ext. 2666).



We should be talking to each other.

Head of Commercial Law

This post, in the Legal Department of our Corporate Affairs Directorate, will shortly become vacant.

It is primarily concerned with helping to formulate CBI policy towards legislative changes at the UK and EEC level. In addition to dealing with commercial law generally, the portfolio of responsibilities covers UK and EEC competition law and intellectual property.

The person appointed will prepare papers for policy committees, guide consultations with members and carry forward representations to Government Departments, MPs and the EEC institutions. Some travel to Brussels will be required.

Applications are invited from solicitors or barristers, preferably aged 28-33, with experience in commercial law. The ability to communicate clearly orally and in writing is essential and to read French desirable.

Comprehensive CV, stating present salary, should be sent to J. L. Clark, Confederation of British Industry, Centre Point, 103 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1DU.

Licensing Controller

International Company at the forefront of Information Technology, situated on the Sussex/Surrey borders requires a Barrister or Solicitor with knowledge and experience of Intellectual Property Law to act as Licensing Controller. The position will involve the protection of designs and computer programs on an international basis, the negotiation and drafting of

contracts and licence agreements and the registration and protection of the Company's trademarks. It will also afford the opportunity to become closely involved with all aspects of the Company's business and will necessitate some travel within the United Kingdom and abroad. Competitive starting salary will be related to age and experience.

Please write to Colin Vincent, Personnel Manager, Monotype Typography, a Division of The Monotype Corporation Limited, Honeycroft Lane, Salfords, Redhill, Surrey, RH1 5JP.

CONVEYANCER

Legal Executive with at least 5 years experience required for Head Office Legal Department of Clearing Bank to assist with residential conveyancing in newly formed section.

Generous salary and other benefits. Apply in writing with Curriculum Vitae to:

Mr E. C. Woods, Principal Solicitor, Midland Bank plc, 11 Old Jewry, London, EC2R 6AA.

LEGAL DIVISION or Personnel Department have vacancies for Solicitors of all levels in London and throughout England. Apply to: Mr. E. C. Woods, Principal Solicitor, Midland Bank plc, 11 Old Jewry, London EC2R 6AA.

COMMERCIAL CONVEYANCER required to assist with civil practice. Excellent salary and benefits. Please apply to: Mr. E. C. Woods, Principal Solicitor, Midland Bank plc, 11 Old Jewry, London EC2R 6AA.

Assistant Solicitor

Applications are invited for the position of Assistant Solicitor in the Conveyancing Section of the Bank's Solicitors and Legal Department from solicitors with not less than three years experience of residential conveyancing since admission. As there is a requirement to deputise for the Head of Section, administrative ability is essential. The position carries an attractive salary with a non-contributory pension and other usual benefits available to bank employees. Applications for more particulars with Curriculum Vitae to Mr. E. C. Woods, Principal Solicitor, Midland Bank plc, 11 Old Jewry, London EC2R 6AA.



GOULDENS

Applications are invited for the following positions in this well established and expanding Commercial Practice.

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL

A two year qualified Assistant Solicitor required. Applicants should have a working knowledge of Stock Exchange Yellow Book and City Code, and should have general Company Law experience. Some knowledge of taxation desirable. Salary circa £14,000.

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

Newly qualified and two to three year qualified Assistant Solicitors required to deal with a wide variety of Commercial Litigation matters including Intellectual Property, Building Disputes, Insolvency, Arbitration, Employment and General High Court work. Salary... newly qualified circa £11,250; two to three years qualified circa £14,000 - £15,500.

Successful applicants will be required to handle a substantial case load with minimum supervision. There are exciting prospects for those with proven ability.

Please send full Curriculum Vitae to Martin Piers (Staff Partner) Gouldens, 118, Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1JJ.

International Law Firm

Corporate Lawyers

Up To 4 Years Admitted

Our client is one of the U.K.'s leading law firms with a network of overseas offices and a diverse domestic and international practice.

Naturally, specialisation exists throughout the firm but within the main Company Department in London, a separate group has been established and development has been rapid. In addition to routine acquisitions and disposals, this 2 Partner/6 Assistant group deals with venture capital transactions (including management buy-outs) and new issues on behalf of banks, brokers and entrepreneurs. It also advises on the establishment of off-shore and on-shore funds. There is a high proportion of U.S. corporate clients.

Two additional lawyers with up to 4 years' experience in general company/commercial work or specifically the above areas, are now required to join the group.

If you desire interesting and varied work in a sociable environment, have a flexible attitude to working hours and would like to learn a little more about these appointments, salaries and benefits, please write or telephone Denis Reed in the first instance at:

The Room Twelve Partnership, Temple Chambers, Temple Avenue, London EC4Y 0HP. Telephone: 01-583 4847/4929

ROOM TWELVE
Recruitment of Lawyers

London Based

Career Opportunities with a world wide leader in polymer processing

British Vita plc are a world leader in polymer processing, currently we have two vacancies in the Group Secretary's Department based at the company headquarters in Middleton, Manchester.

SOLICITOR

Reporting to the Group Secretary, who is a practising solicitor, for this position we require a candidate with two or three years admitted experience in private practice in relevant fields, who seeks the challenge of providing comprehensive corporate legal advice, in addition to technical competence the ability to communicate at all levels of management is essential. The variety and density of the work load is unpredictable but always challenging. Preference will be given to candidates who are fluent in French and/or German. Willingness to travel overseas at irregular intervals at short notice is a pre-requisite.

CHARTERED SECRETARY

Also reporting direct to the Group Secretary, a fully qualified Chartered Secretary, who has probably trained in the manufacturing industry, is required to provide an anchor role. The successful candidate will be responsible for the supervision of the group's secretarial functions, particularly as statutory regulations affect the operations of a group whose activities embrace both chemical processing and marketing consumer products. In addition to maintaining statutory registers and records, and responsibility for day to day maintenance of the group's industrial property rights, the position will also involve a significant contribution to management of the group's real estate interests. Numeracy is desirable but the position will best suit a candidate with experience in and a bias towards legal matters.

Both positions carry a competitive salary and fringe benefits. Applications, including full CV, to be addressed in the first instance to: T. Richardson, Director - Personnel Services, British Vita plc, Middleton, Manchester, M24 2DB.



British Vita plc
A Vital Part of World Industry.

MUSICVIDEO LAWYER

We want to start you off on an entirely new speciality of entertainment law. Musicvideo requires all the skills of the record, music publishing and film lawyer plus the personality for dealing with both creative teams and management. Some experience would be an advantage but we are willing to train you too. So if you're a newly qualified solicitor and interested in rock music - write to:

Joy Hamlyn
Personnel Officer
PolyGram Leisure Limited
15 St George Street
London W1R 9DE

polyGram



Legal Executive

Career development role for unadmitted/newly admitted solicitor Central London

Lloyds Bowmaker Finance Group, one of the UK's leading Finance Companies, has a challenging opportunity for a Legal Executive to join the Legal Department at their Group Head Office. This varied, interesting role offers plenty of scope for development of expertise in the field of litigation. You will assist the Senior Litigation Assistant and will have responsibility for a designated case load of contested actions.

Probably in your mid 20's, you will either be unadmitted or a newly admitted solicitor with a good general legal knowledge. Sound experience of High Court and County Court procedure is essential and some knowledge of credit law would be an advantage. We offer an attractive salary, dependent on age and experience, and excellent benefits including mortgage subsidy and profit sharing after a qualifying period.

For an application form, please write to T. J. Edwards, Group Personnel Officer, Lloyds Bowmaker Finance Group, 91/3 Cranborne Street, London W1X 9FB or telephone 01-491 3236.

PARIS

Leading city shipping Solicitors with established French clientele seek French speaking Solicitors/Barristers with 1/2 years relevant litigation or claims handling experience for their expanding Paris office. A generous salary is offered locally and the long-term prospects for the right candidate(s) are bright.

Apply with CV to Box 2434 H The Times.

Thomas Cooper & Stibbard

wish to recruit a conveyancer with not less than two years' post admission experience. There are partnership prospects for the successful applicant. Please apply, with full curriculum vitae, to T. J. R. Goode, Thomas Cooper & Stibbard, 27 Leadenhall Street, London EC3A 1AB.

BEDFORDSHIRE

Established firm in friendly market town requires enthusiastic solicitor to undertake mainly criminal and matrimonial litigation but with some personal injury as well as an opportunity to deal with non-contentious work. Would suit newly qualified solicitor. Realistic salary plus car for right applicant.

Apply with CV to Mr R. J. Collins, 2 London Road, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire.

LEGAL EXECUTIVE Conveyancing and General Litigation. Good salary and benefits. Contact: West Coast Conveyancers (0925) 28145.

HATFIELD Litigation, young Solicitor, 10 to 12 years admitted for general work. £10,000 AAR. Call Personnel Appointment 242 1521.

COMMERCIAL CONVEYANCER required to assist with civil practice. Excellent salary and benefits. Please apply to: Mr. E. C. Woods, Principal Solicitor, Midland Bank plc, 11 Old Jewry, London EC2R 6AA.

London Legal Executives

29 Maddox Street, London, W1R 9LD
Telephone: 01-493 1262
CITY CONVEYANCERS: senior practice seeks Solicitor with 1-2 years post qualification experience in all aspects of commercial conveyancing. Residential Development: CO. Conveyancing Solicitor required to head residential development. Salary based. Excellent salary + car. LEGAL ACCOUNTANT: Required by well established accountancy firm. Will handle all aspects of the firm's business including senior roles of the Chartered Institute of Accountants. Tel 01-493 1262.
Telephone: Mrs DIANA WARREN or Mrs FRIDA LAMBERT on 01-493 1262.
Recruitment Consultants

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

BBC 1

- 6.00 **Cee-fax AM.**
- 6.30 **Breakfast Time** with Frank Bough and Sally Stott. News from Debbie Rix at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; sport at 6.40 and 7.40; regional news, weather and traffic at 6.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; television preview at 6.55; a review of the morning papers at 7.18 and 8.18; exercises at 7.25, horoscopes at 8.33; food and cooking and financial advice between 8.30 and 9.00.
- 9.00 **Craft of the Weaver.** The first of five programmes in which leading handweavers demonstrate their techniques (r). 9.25 **Cee-fax.** 10.30 **Play School.** presented by Ben Thomas (r). 10.55 **Cee-fax.**
- 12.30 **News After Noon** with Richard Whitmore and Frances Coverdale. The weather prospects come from Michael Smith. 12.57 **Regional News** (London and SE only). Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles. 1.00 **Pebble Mill at One.** Music and conversation from the foyer of the Birmingham studios. 1.45 **Check-a-Block.** A See-Saw programme for the very young (r).
- 2.00 **Caught in Time** presented by James Cameron. Lady Rose McLaren explains a historic movie made in 1934 by her father, the Marquess of Anglesey, ridiculing the Blackshirt movement (r).
- 2.20 **Film: This Man is Mine** (1934) starring Irene Dunne as the wife who has to protect her husband from the wicked machinations of his former fiancée. Directed by John Cromwell.
- 3.35 **Cartoon: Barnyard Babies.** 3.48 **Regional News** (London). 3.50 **News.** Roundabout (r). 3.55 **Play School.** presented by Elizabeth Watts. 4.20 **Cartoon: Laurel and Hardy.** 4.25 **Jackanory.** 4.40 **Charlie Brown.** 4.55 **John Craven's Newsround.** 5.10 **Treasure Houses.** Mark Curry at Seabourne the home of country person, Gilbert White. 5.35 **The Wombles** (r).
- 5.40 **Sixty Minutes** includes news at 5.40 from Moira Stuart; weather at 5.54; regional news headlines at 5.55; news headlines at 6.38.
- 6.40 **Harty.** His guests are Susan George, Mr Universe (Jeff King) and Dr John Nicholson.
- 7.10 **The District Nurse.** Episode nine and ten, strung by the barrage of complaints about her, decides to leave Penrith for a few days.
- 7.40 **A Question of Sport.** A test of sporting knowledge between one team led by Bill Beaumont, another by Emlin Hughes.
- 8.10 **Dallas.** Sue Ellen goes on a shopping spree in Jenna's boutique while J.R. continues with his plan to cause the commercial downfall of Cliff Gable (Cee-fax times page 170).
- 9.00 **News with Sue Lawley.**
- 9.25 **Play for Today: Meeting on the Edge.** by Rose Tremain. The story of middle-aged Camilla, a wife and mother who has an affair with her husband and cannot communicate with her daughter. Starring Eleanor Bron (see Choice).
- 10.30 **Film: The Power Play** (1976) starring Raymond Burr as an investigative journalist who is given the job of examining the reasons behind a newspaper's change of editorial policy in regard to nuclear power. His searches reveal blackmail, murder and a megalomaniac's plan to dominate the world. Directed by Robert Day.
- 12.05 **News headlines and weather.**

TV-am

- 6.25 **Good Morning Britain** presented by John Stapleton and Anne Diamond. News from Gordon Honeycombe at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; sport at 6.35 and 7.35; consumer affairs at 8.40 and 8.45; exercises at 8.50 and 9.15; the day's odd anniversaries at 7.05 and 8.05; a guest in the Spotlight at 7.20; cartoon at 7.25; guest of the day, Timothy West, at 7.40; pop music news at 7.55; Ideal Home Exhibition preview at 8.10; video report at 8.35; baby talk at 9.05.

TV-LONDON

- 9.25 **Thames news headlines.** 9.30 **For Schools: Simple arithmetic.** 9.45 **Talking about the past 10.04** a visit to a colliery. 10.21 **Evolution.** 10.30 **Evolution.** 10.45 **Evolution.** 11.08 **Creative ways of using leisure.** 11.25 **A visit to two ice cream factories.** 11.38 **The Pompidou Centre in Paris.**
- 12.00 **Castle Hill Bay.** Seaside adventures of the Cockle twins. 12.10 **Reinhold.** Learning with puppets (r). 12.30 **The Sullivan.**
- 1.00 **News.** 1.20 **Thames news.** 1.30 **A Plus.** 2.00 **Crown Court.** 2.10 **Cartoon.** 2.20 **Cartoon.** 2.30 **Cartoon.** 2.40 **Cartoon.** 2.50 **Cartoon.** 3.00 **Cartoon.** 3.10 **Cartoon.** 3.20 **Cartoon.** 3.30 **Cartoon.** 3.40 **Cartoon.** 3.50 **Cartoon.** 4.00 **Cartoon.** 4.10 **Cartoon.** 4.20 **Cartoon.** 4.30 **Cartoon.** 4.40 **Cartoon.** 4.50 **Cartoon.** 5.00 **Cartoon.** 5.10 **Cartoon.** 5.20 **Cartoon.** 5.30 **Cartoon.** 5.40 **Cartoon.** 5.50 **Cartoon.** 6.00 **Cartoon.** 6.10 **Cartoon.** 6.20 **Cartoon.** 6.30 **Cartoon.** 6.40 **Cartoon.** 6.50 **Cartoon.** 7.00 **Cartoon.** 7.10 **Cartoon.** 7.20 **Cartoon.** 7.30 **Cartoon.** 7.40 **Cartoon.** 7.50 **Cartoon.** 8.00 **Cartoon.** 8.10 **Cartoon.** 8.20 **Cartoon.** 8.30 **Cartoon.** 8.40 **Cartoon.** 8.50 **Cartoon.** 9.00 **Cartoon.** 9.10 **Cartoon.** 9.20 **Cartoon.** 9.30 **Cartoon.** 9.40 **Cartoon.** 9.50 **Cartoon.** 10.00 **Cartoon.** 10.10 **Cartoon.** 10.20 **Cartoon.** 10.30 **Cartoon.** 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32 TUESDAY MARCH 6 1984

6% pay rise call for Civil Service

By David Felton
Labour Correspondent

A government survey of pay increases for white-collar workers is expected to show that Civil Servants will need rises of about 6 per cent - double the Government guideline - to keep pace, according to union officials.

The survey, which is due to be completed later this month, is being conducted by the Office of Manpower Economics and will be used in this year's pay negotiations covering more than 500,000 white collar Civil Servants.

Unions leaders have started a campaign to alert their members to the likely outcome of the survey and they believe there will be strong resistance if the Government ignores its recommendations, in the wake of the GCHQ affair.

The Society of Civil and Public Servants, the second largest Civil Service union, commissioned its own survey from the Labour Research Department which showed that pay rises for white collar staff in the period from 1st March to January had ranged between 4.5 per cent and 7.5 per cent.

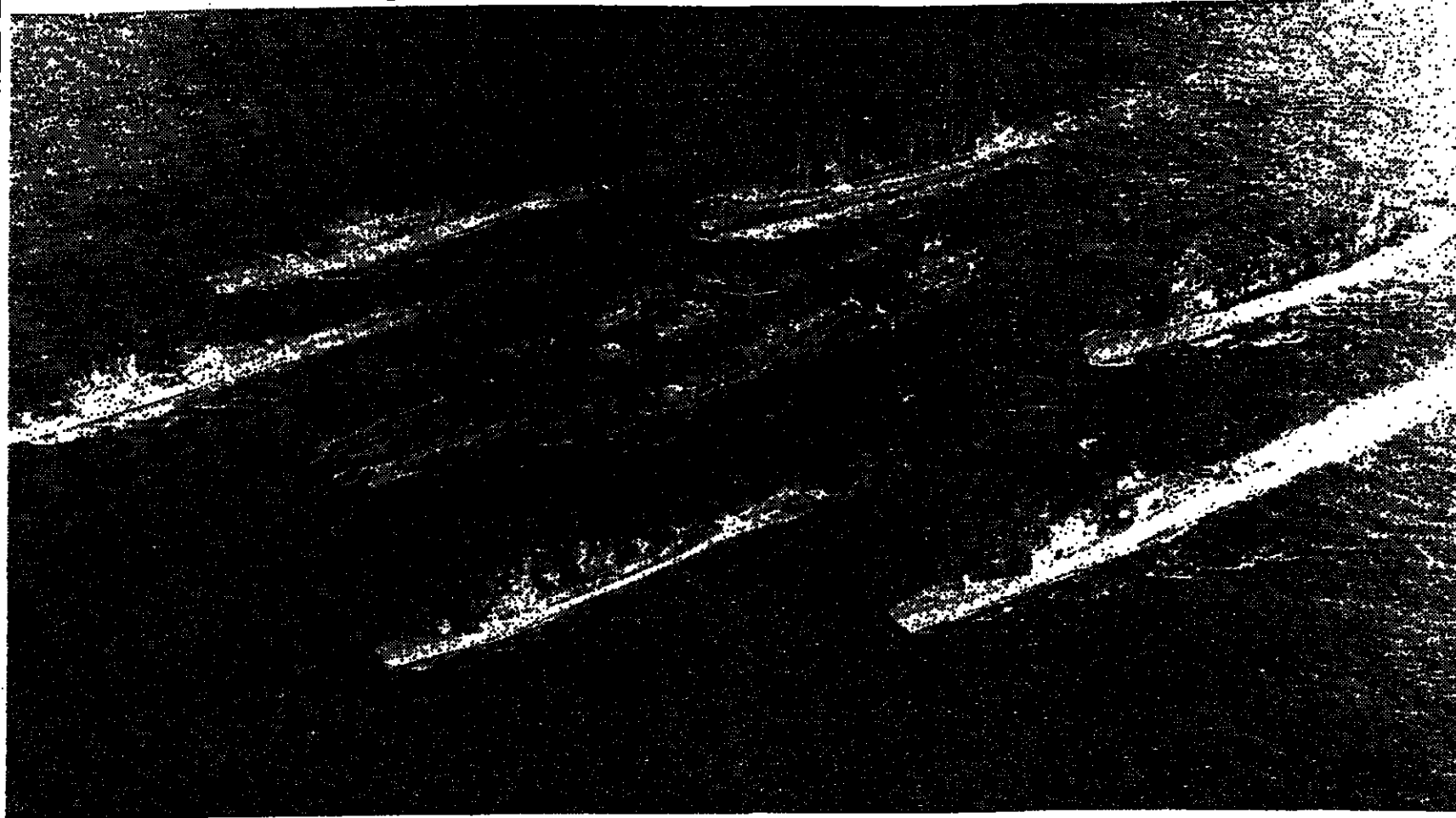
However, they argue that the average falls between 5.5 per cent and 6 per cent and they expect that to edge towards the 6 per cent mark as January settlements in the financial sectors are taken into account.

The unions are also expected to argue that the hard examination of movements in pay rates does not give a full picture of earnings increases, and up to a further 1 per cent would need to be added to take account of bonus earnings in private industry.

An agreement between the unions and the Treasury allows for the pay survey to be used in the pay negotiations "to inform but not constrain" and the unions are working on the basis that it will at least have an over-riding value against the Government.

The Government may also propose to the unions that an increase above the 3 per cent guideline could be available if there was agreement on savings in other areas, such as manpower cuts.

Meeting trouble midway in the Gulf



The powerful American task force patrolling the Hormuz Straits between Iran and the Gulf States to honour President Reagan's promise to keep Middle East oil supplies flowing to the West has already had several brushes with Iranian forces. The aircraft carrier Midway and its formidable escort (above) have patrolled up to 300 miles up the Gulf, more than half way to the Iranian oil island of Kharg, seeing off with tracer bullets and flares an Iranian reconnaissance aircraft that ventured too close. The task force has declared a "no-go" area of five miles round itself for both aircraft and ships, and the Midway has also engaged in a running battle of words with an Iranian frigate which penetrated the zone. However, in spite of Iranian threats to close the straits to all shipping, the oil is still flowing.

Letter from Tyre Business as usual for the militias

"Anyone who is not confused here does not really understand what is going on," says the notice in the office of Mr Timor Goksel, spokesman for the 5,800-member United Nations force that has been struggling to keep the peace in southern Lebanon since 1978.

It is a salutary statement, borne out by the bewildering patchwork of local militias, some as big as a football team, that have sprung up since the 1982 invasion by Israel - whose subsequent pact with the Lebanese Government is now in tatters - and the expulsion of the Palestine Liberation Organization, which had ruled with its own brand of gun law.

The atmosphere of unreality is reinforced by a way of life in which shops displaying the latest Paris fashions and vintage wines at knock-down prices are found amid buildings still bearing the scars of modern warfare and suffering regular water and electricity breakdowns.

Nowhere is the confusion greater than in the former Phoenician port of Tyre, where one of the new militias now supported by Israel is led by a Muslim who used to enjoy officer status in the PLO, and where three or four coasters laden with contraband from Cyprus are regularly to be found outside the harbour.

Since access to Beirut is severely restricted by Israel's control of the Awali River bridges, the range and volume of smuggled goods have increased greatly, and now include even the most sophisticated video recorders. The going price for a carton of 300 French cigarettes is just over £1.

According to UN officers (whose area does not include Tyre or its 35,000 predominantly Muslim inhabitants), the man selected by the Israelis to run the harbour is the same one chosen in earlier days by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, whose gunmen used to hold sway in the heavily bombed port area. The dues extracted from the smugglers finance the militias, which appear to be the most flourishing local business.

The militiamen approved by the Israelis carry cards permitting them to hold their deadly assortment of personal weapons and are paid about £130 a month. They are grouped under the broad title of "The National Guard" and are designed to resist any attempt by PLO men to return.

UN officers are sceptical about whether the new Muslim militias around Tyre would hold together if the Israelis left. "What they are doing is basically a business. It is primarily a matter of economics", one officer said.

On the outskirts of the city, the spot where the Israeli security headquarters was destroyed by a suicide bomber last November, is now a high, behind which the tops of some army tents are just visible. With good reason, all Israeli troops in the region - a favourite ambush spot - look nervous and trigger-happy, their non-tracked vehicles usually being driven at break-neck speed.

The Levantine spirit of the residents - most of whom say they want to be allowed to get on with business without outside interference - is seen at the incongruously named Elissa Beach Club.

It was reopened by its owner, Mr Mustapha Arab, soon after the Israeli invasion, having been closed since 1976 because of PLO threats. Last year, its restaurant overlooking the Mediterranean was expanded to increase the seating to 500, and a regular Saturday night dance was instituted.

But the investment appears to have been in vain: during my stay only one table in the cavernous restaurant was occupied, and the only other guest was a man from the Daily Telegraph.

Mr Arab, who looks older than his 33 years, spoke optimistically of plans to install an international telephone line - but his finances do not even run to a change of sheets or towels between guests. A member of Amal, the Shia Muslim militia, assured us that his men would permit the consumption of alcohol to continue at the well-stocked but deserted bar.

"The breaking of bottles in the Commodore Hotel in West Beirut was a mistake we have already corrected internally," he explained with a look which left little room for doubt about the fate of the individual militiamen involved.

Christopher Walker

Oil giant talks tactics in £10bn takeover fight

By William Kay, City Editor

Trading in the stock of Gulf Oil was halted in New York yesterday morning as the board met to consider possible takeover bids of as much as \$15,000m (£10,000m).

However, the meeting broke up at lunchtime and dealings resumed at 1.40pm, local time. The price rose quickly by \$1.50 to \$71.

Gulf faces an unwanted approach from Mesa Petroleum, led by Mr T. Boone Pickens Jr. The board has been considering other options, including a takeover by Atlantic Richfield, former owner of the *Observer*, which could create an oil, gas, coal and chemical group worth about \$30,000m.

Other bids are reportedly being put together by Standard Oil of California (Socal) and Allied Corporation.

Miners' strike called over pit closures

Continued from page 1

Mr MacGregor has a plan to close up to 70 pits.

In view of the worsening situation in Yorkshire and the demands for action over the Lancashire pits, the NUM executive will be under strong pressure on Thursday to step up industrial action. Mr Scargill and his supporters have been reluctant to do this because they believe the overtime ban is effective.

The recent statements from Mr MacGregor on the seriousness of the situation would seem to suggest that the action is beginning to bite into coal board finances and that there are fears of a boom in imports of foreign coal to supply domestic users.

Thatcher show stays on the road, says Biffen

Continued from page 1

"Of course they would find it reassuring to be out of the situation. We have had one or two highly-publicized problems. But I don't think there is any basic unease about the broad direction of economic policy."

Mr Biffen said that in the last Parliament, Mrs Thatcher's brand of radical Toryism had shifted the centre ground of politics so far that the Labour left would not be able to reverse or haul it back again.

But he adds: "I don't think the same sense of direction and commitment can easily be carried forward for a second parliament, though the broad thrust must be that of extending the economic policies of 1979-1983."

I think that the policies we now have simply have to be capable of being expressed in a tone which is both evangelical and yet appealing to the deeply instinctive Tory desire to consolidate and preserve the factors that are congenial.

"We have the prospect of doing it against an economy which is in somewhat better shape, though nobody's going to get euphoric about it. But when you think what we did against a recessionary background, I am quite certain that the Thatcher show can be kept firmly on the road."

Meanwhile, Whitehall mounted a blanket defence, brushing aside criticism of a long list of issues from MPs' pay and capital punishment through to GCHQ and energy prices.

One Whitehall source said that the Government had no intention of abdicating in favour of Fleet Street.

Oman silence, page 2

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements
The Queen holds an investiture at Buckingham Palace, 11.
The Prince and Princess of Wales attend a dinner given by the Jewish Welfare Board to mark the 125th Anniversary of its foundation at the Guildhall, London, 7.40.
Princess Anne, visits the Red Cross camp for disabled people at Poshing Holiday Camp, Weymouth, Dorset, 12.15; and later visits the new Royal British Legion Headquarters in Dorchester, Dorset, 2.20.

New exhibition
Euryl Stevens' paintings: Green, Stafford, Tues to Fri 10 to 5.30, Sat 10 to 4 (closed Sun and Mon; ends April 21).

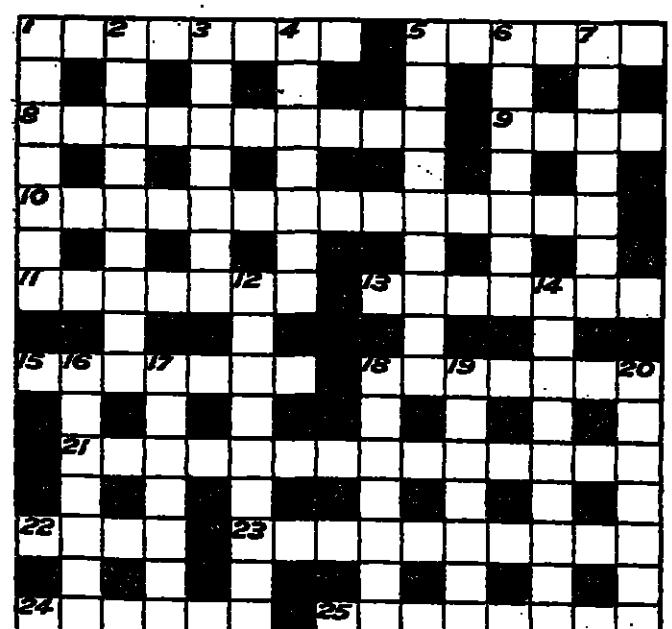
Last chance to see
Printmakers Circle, an exhibition of screen prints and line cuts, Tunbridge Wells Art Gallery, Civic Centre, Mount Pleasant, Tunbridge Wells Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30 (ends today).

Music
Concert by the University

Ensemble Reardon Smith Lecture Theatre, Park Place, Cardiff, 7.30.
Recital by the Classical Piano Trio, University Hall, Bath, 1.35.
Piano recital by Joanna Leach, Chichester Cathedral, Chichester, 1.10.
Concert by the Baby Carr Wind Band, Bentley Methodist Church, Doncaster, 7.30.
Concert by the Bourne-mouth Symphony Orchestra and Bourne-mouth Sinfonietta, Winter Gardens, Bourne-mouth, 7.30.
Organ recital by Ronald Frost, St Ann's Church, Manchester, 12.45.

Talks, lectures
Chemistry with chips by Professor A. K. Covington, Chemistry Lecture Room, B, 4.20. Urban topography and environment in the Roman world by Professor J. S. Wache, Bennett Lecture Theatre 1, 5.15, both at the University of Leicester, Leicester.
Diderot in retrospect by Professor Robert Niklaus, Elvet Riverside Lecture Rooms, New Elvet, 5.30. Dynamic Landscapes by Dr Chris Rea, Scarborough Lecture Theatre, Dept of Chemistry, Science Laboratories, 7.15, both at the University of Durham, Durham City.
Early Medieval Ivories and Romanesque Art by Professor Peter Lasko, University of Bristol, Piers Art Lectures, Reception Room, Wills Memorial Building, Queens Road, Bristol, 5.15.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,371



ACROSS

- Unconventional miss, stage too (8).
- Brood about the contract player's transfer (6).
- Pageant ends after walk by celebrity (10).
- Oil area may go with the stream (4).
- Signal that lady is not available, even on the phone? (10,4).
- He acts for another when things get rough (5-2).
- Number one, Regent Street, perhaps? No way? (7).
- It may be winter, as Mrs Thatcher said on marriage? (7).
- He makes a charge for a small volume consumer? (7).
- Impressive production of leucocytes of identity (14).
- In Tripoli, onion stew's the answer (4).
- Topped by Gable? (10).
- Point taken by one who minds where he is going (6).
- A beam from Medusa? (5-3).

DOWN

- Rains blow on strikers? (7).
- Timekeeper obstructed by bottleneck? (9).
- He probably did, if he was thus involved with a football club? (7).
- Having made a slam, he is given the money (7).
- Being in two minds, Tom takes a pick-me-up (9).
- Careless, losing midwinter dressing-gown? (7).
- Bucolic, perhaps, but equally well-versed in this? (7).
- Perhaps Gray's going on to ring the landlady (9).
- He makes a great fist at pipe-work (3-6).
- Boy called twice with a bit of fodder? (7).
- Opening to a passage in Orpheus in the Underworld? (7).
- Carrier blows up? (7).
- Agreement about form of sonnet (7).
- Dress lazily without bending? (7).

Solution of Puzzle No 16,370

ACROSS: 1. BOTTLE, 2. GABLE, 3. POINT, 4. BEAM, 5. MEDUSA, 6. WINTER, 7. THATCHER, 8. MARRIAGE, 9. CONSUMER, 10. IDENTITY, 11. TRIPOLI, 12. ONION, 13. STEW, 14. ANSWER.

DOWN: 1. RAINS, 2. TIMEKEEPER, 3. OBSTRUCTED, 4. BOTTLENECK, 5. HE, 6. PROBABLY, 7. DID, 8. IF, 9. WAS, 10. INVOLVED, 11. WITH, 12. A, 13. FOOTBALL, 14. CLUB.

TV top ten

National top ten television programmes in the week ending February 26:

- Coronation Street (Wed), 17.25
- Coronation Street (Mon), 18.10
- The A-Team, 19.15
- 2-2-1, 19.45
- 2-2-1, 19.45
- 2-2-1, 19.45
- 2-2-1, 19.45
- 2-2-1, 19.45
- 2-2-1, 19.45
- 2-2-1, 19.45

Anniversaries

Births: Michelangelo, Caprese, Italy, 1475; Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Durham, 1806; Deaths: Francis Beaumont, dramatist (with John Fletcher), London, 1616; Louis May Alcott, author of *Little Women*, Boston, Massachusetts, 1888; Gottlieb Daimler, pioneer of motor cars, Cannstatt, Germany, 1900; John Redmond, Irish nationalist, London, 1918; John Philip Sousa, bandmaster and composer of military music, Reading, Pennsylvania, 1932.

The pound

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	28.20	26.60
Canada \$	83.50	79.50
Denmark Kr	1.91	1.84
Finland Mk	5.62	5.22
France Fr	12.12	11.62
Germany DM	3.90	3.72
Hong Kong \$	162.00	152.00
Italy Lira	2450.00	2350.00
Japan Yen	347.00	331.00
Netherlands Gld	1.62	1.54
Norway Kr	11.55	10.95
Portugal Esc	200.00	190.00
Spain Ptas	166.00	156.00
Sweden Kr	11.80	11.30
Switzerland Fr	3.27	3.10
USA \$	1.53	1.48
Yugoslavia Dnr	208.00	198.00

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Debate on Expenditure White Paper.
Lords (2.30): Housing and Building Control Bill, committee, second day.

National Day

The West African state of Ghana today celebrates the twenty-seventh anniversary of its independence from Britain. On March 6, 1957, Ghana became the first British colony in Africa to attain full independence under the leadership of Dr Kwame Nkrumah, who later became the country's first president.

Bond winners

The winning number in the March draw for a £250,000 Premium Bond prize is 16K5327983 (the winner comes from Manchester).

Roads

Midlands: A427/Traffic signals on Market Harborough - Leicester road at Lutterworth, Leicestershire. A449: Traffic signals on Worcester - Malvern road, near Worcester. A45: Roadworks on Coventry - Daventry road at Fosse Crossing, Warwickshire.
North: A61: Marsh Way, Northgate, Wakefield, narrow at junction of Marsh Way, Northgate, Wakefield, West Yorkshire. A534: Single lane traffic on Crayke Road, Winterville, Sandbach, traffic lights, delays. A689: Investigation into bridge structure at Cowshill Bridge, on Durham; temporary lights.
Wales: A581/A385: Temporary traffic lights at Brutus Bridge, Bridgetown Hill, Tones. M4: Lane closures for bridge inspection and repairs between junction 21 and junction 22 across Severn Bridge, both carriageways affected, also off-peak overnight closure. A55: Temporary signals on Bangor - Colwyn road at Conway, Gwynedd.
Scotland: M47/M73: Lightings column installation on the M73 at junction 6/1: intermittent lane closures. A94: Single lane traffic with lights between Meikle and Coupar, Angus.

Anniversaries

Births: Michelangelo, Caprese, Italy, 1475; Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Durham, 1806; Deaths: Francis Beaumont, dramatist (with John Fletcher), London, 1616; Louis May Alcott, author of *Little Women*, Boston, Massachusetts, 1888; Gottlieb Daimler, pioneer of motor cars, Cannstatt, Germany, 1900; John Redmond, Irish nationalist, London, 1918; John Philip Sousa, bandmaster and composer of military music, Reading, Pennsylvania, 1932.

The papers

See how Senator Garry Hart is giving Walter Mondale a run for his money in the American Democratic Party primary elections, the Daily Star says. "Twice now, Mondale, former Vice-President to Jimmy Carter and the man with trade John F. Kennedy, has been beaten by Hart - last week in New Hampshire, now in Maine. That has to make him the first favourite to run against Ronald Reagan in November - even though there are plenty of states still to vote before the nomination convention in July. It is often said that only a rich man can afford to run for President in America. Men like Walter Mondale command huge campaign funds. Yet Garry Hart is not a wealthy man, nor did he start the race with big cash backing."

The Daily Mirror points out that although Whitehall has recently carried out a secret inquiry into the progress being made towards open government, full details won't be disclosed until January 1, 2014. It says: "As part of the script of *Yes, Minister* that would be funny. As a statement of fact, it is depressing. We live in a secret society."

Lighting-up time

London 6.20 pm to 6.03 am
Edinburgh 6.20 pm to 6.18 am
Manchester 6.27 pm to 6.15 am
Preston 6.43 pm to 6.23 am

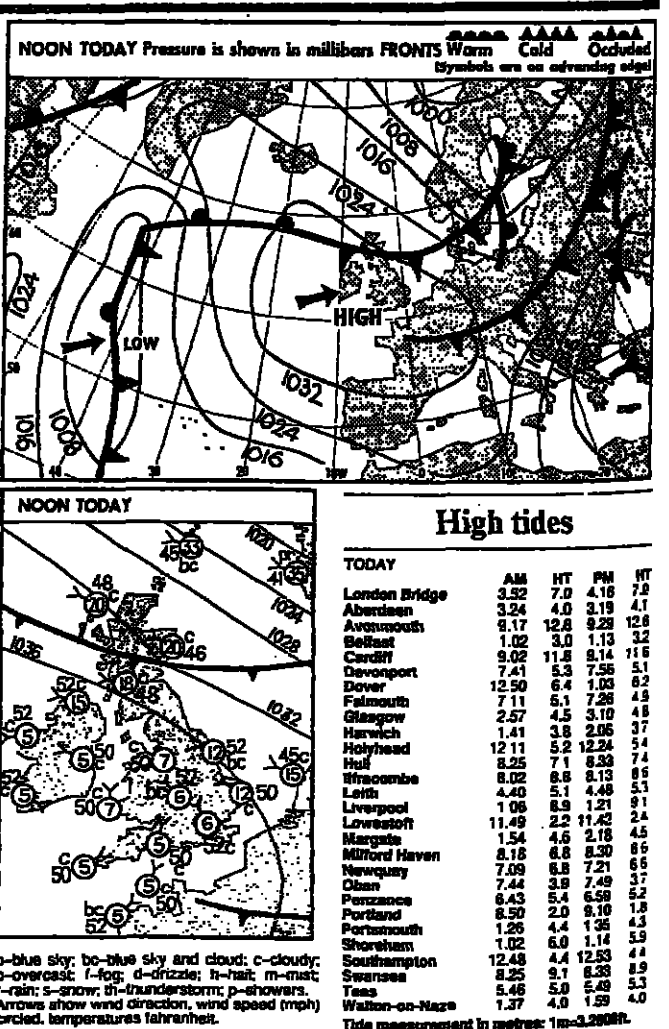
Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c. cloud; d. drizzle; f. fog; m. rain; s. sun.

	C	F
Belfast	10	50
Birmingham	10	50
Blackpool	10	50
Bristol	11	52
Cardiff	10	50
Edinburgh	10	50
Glasgow	10	50
London	11	52
Manchester	10	50
Newcastle	10	50
Nottingham	10	50
Sheffield	10	50
Sunderland	10	50
Swansea	10	50
Torquay	10	50

Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Plymouth, 15C (59F); lowest day temp: Cape Wrath, 7C (45F). Night: Lowest night temp: Cape Wrath, 7C (45F); highest night temp: Luton, 15C (59F).



Around Britain			
Station	Time	Max	Min
Scarborough	10.10	10.10	10.10
Blackpool	10.10	10.10	10.10
Manchester	10.10	10.10	10.10
Sheffield	10.10	10.10	10.10
Nottingham	10.10	10.10	10.10
Leeds	10.10	10.10	10.10
Birmingham	10.10	10.10	10.10
Cardiff	10.10	10.10	10.10
Belfast	10.10	10.10	10.10
London	10.10	10.10	10.10
Edinburgh	10.10	10.10	10.10
Glasgow	10.10	10.10	10.10
Newcastle	10.10	10.10	10.10
Sheffield	10.10	10.10	10.10
Nottingham	10.10	10.10	10.10
Leeds	10.10	10.10	10.10
Birmingham	10.10	10.10	10.10
Cardiff	10.10	10.10	10.10
Belfast	10.10	10.10	10.10
London	10.10	10.10	10.10
Edinburgh	10.10	10.10	10.10
Glasgow	10.10	10.10	10.10
Newcastle	10.10	10.10	10.10